

Settlers start new building in Hebron

HEBON, occupied West Bank (R) — Jewish settlers have begun erecting a new building in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron in an effort to strengthen their small enclave there, Palestinians said on Wednesday. The Israeli army lifted a daytime curfew imposed on the city after security forces ambushed and killed three Palestinians on Sunday. An army spokesman said a dusk-to-dawn curfew will remain in effect in Hebron. Settlers laid the cornerstone on Tuesday for a new building which they said would add five families to the city's 400 Jewish settlers. Thousands of Israelis on Passover holiday visited the town on Tuesday as Hebron's 110,000 Palestinians were confined to their homes under the military curfew. Hebron city officials said the settlers did not apply for a building permit and therefore the construction was being carried out illegally. A spokesman for the army's civil administration occupation arm said he was checking who authorised the building.

COLUMN

Briton faces judgement in child sex case

BRUSSELS (AFP) — A Briton charged with organizing sex tourism in a maximum of one year if he is found guilty by a Belgian court Wednesday, John Stamford, publisher of the travel guide "Spartacus," has been held throughout last year in prison and awaiting trial on charges of slavery, organized prostitution and other evidence to be presented against him. The organizations involved in his trial, led by Swiss group "Terre Des Hommes," claim that Spaniard is innocent of intent for an annual European package tour of child sex workers. It is Amsterdam since he has educational exchanges and sells about 100,000 copies per year, which according to him, "is a lot." On coming to trial, he said, "I am not telling where, and what time I will be produced for sentence." The document quoted Terre Des Hommes, I am not telling where, and what time I will be produced for sentence.

Sinai to serve Palestinian pilgrims

CAIRO (AFP) — The airport of Egypt's Sinai town of Al Arish will be used for international flights for the first time to transport Palestinian pilgrims to Mecca, the pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Abdul Naim told AFP. "We have renovated the runways, enlarged the waiting facilities for passengers and modernised the airport equipment for the occasion," he added. The airport of Al Arish, 380 kilometres northwest of Cairo, has been used solely for domestic flights since it was reopened in 1982. Only Yasser Arafat has used it to fly abroad, particularly to Tunisia, since moving to the autonomous Gaza Strip July 1994, Mr. Abdul Naim added.

Tunisian official visits Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A senior Tunisian official visited Jerusalem Wednesday and met with an adviser of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Said Ben Mustafa, Tunisia's secretary of state for North African affairs, arrived in the West Bank Tuesday from Jordan and toured the town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Ben Mustafa met Wednesday in Arab East Jerusalem with Ahmad Tibi, who is an adviser to Mr. Arafat. "We discussed ways to strengthen the relationship between Tunis and the Palestinian Authority," Dr. Tibi said after the meeting.

Israel holds Soviet spy since 1988

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel disclosed on Wednesday it has held a Russian spy imprisoned since he was caught in 1988, Israel Radio said. "The spy was Gregory London, an engineer by profession, who was recruited in the former Soviet Union to serve as a KGB secret agent, and emigrated to Israel 22 years ago equipped with technical equipment," the radio said. It said he spied for the Soviet Union for 15 years. Mr. London was sentenced in 1988 to 13 years for espionage and contact with a foreign agent, it said. Israel's supreme court, which in the past rejected an appeal by Mr. London, allowed publication of the story for the first time on Wednesday, the radio said.

World War II ex-Pow recover distance of forced marches

WANNER, R. G. S. —

Clinton presses Ciller for pullout from Iraq

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— President Bill Clinton pressed Turkey Wednesday for an early withdrawal from northern Iraq, but Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said she still cannot set a timetable even though "the majority of the job is done."

Turkish forces are trying to wipe out camps used by Kurdish separatists in the invasion that began four weeks ago. The separatist rebels are fighting for autonomy in southern Turkey.

On the subject of a timetable, Mr. Clinton yielded to Ms. Ciller.

"The reason I cannot promise a date is that would not be fair to those people up in the mountains," she said. She said her forces were "searching the caves in the mountains for the guns and ammunition that would have been used to kill the innocent."

Even so, she promised that Turkey's objectives were limited and were forced because northern Iraq had become "a no-man's land" in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

"We are there only for a limited time. We have gotten hold of the bases that we wanted to do. The majority of the job is done and over with," she said in the Oval Office session.

She was asked whether she was concerned for her safety, or worried about civil unrest in her country, following the arrests in Turkey earlier Wednesday of suspects accused of plotting to assassinate

(Continued on page 7)

India ready for talks with Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Wednesday that he was ready for talks with Pakistan "anyplace, anytime" but an upcoming South Asian summit was not the forum for such bilateral discussions. "Let us sit down anywhere, anytime, at any place," Mr. Mukherjee said in a news conference, referring to proposals to reopen stalled talks with Pakistan. "Let us start talking and see how we can build confidence."

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Crown Prince urges Arab scholars to learn from Gulf crisis, start objective dialogue to chart future

HRH, opening Arab Thought Forum meeting in Doha, stresses need for fresh approach



Special to the Jordan Times
from Qatar

In A FRESH bid to reassess Jordan's Arab credentials and explore new avenues of inter-Arab cooperation following the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday joined forces with his Qatari counterpart to launch an long-awaited meeting of influential intellectuals and thinkers grouped under the Arab Thought Forum.

Most members of the Amman-based forum, which has not met since the start of the Gulf crisis and war, came to this Gulf state not only to overcome the differences that arose among them since Aug. 2, 1990 but also to assess the

(Continued on page 7)

impact of the peace agreements that the Arabs have struck with Israel since then. "When we established the Arab Thought Forum (after the Arab economic summit in Amman) fourteen years ago," Crown Prince Hassan, who is the chairman of the forum, told the group, "we were talking about a decade of development and a joint Arab economic strategy. At the time we thought we were on the threshold of a new stage of joint work. But today we live in an era of uncertainty about and futile search for a new course of action that we could pursue."

The Crown Prince went on to explain that a two-pronged strategy was needed now to prepare the Arab World for a brighter future. First, it was the duty of the Arab intellectuals to study what happened in the Gulf, not in order to apportion blame, but to reach understanding and resolutions which would make the recurrence of that tragic situation impossible or near impossible. And, second, to start an objective dialogue based on facts and analysis, on the implications of peace with Israel on Arab countries.

"Just as we still have different stories to tell about what happened during the Gulf crisis... the peace process (with Israel) is likewise being subjected to positions of justification or rejection without

interest to begin with."

The explosion occurred on the second anniversary of the fiery, fatal ending of the federal siege of the Branch Davidians compound in Waco, Texas. That siege began with a raid by ATF agents on Feb. 19, 1993.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said that security precautions around federal buildings nationwide as well the White House have been taken, as "we would normally take following an incident like this."

President Bill Clinton went ahead with a scheduled meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller scheduled, but was being kept abreast of developments by his advisors, Mr. McCurry said.

Randy Sachs, a spokesman for the Baptist Medical Centre in Oklahoma City, told CNN television that the hospital was "preparing for hundreds of people. We're getting ready for an onslaught of patients."

Dan Voigt, an FBI spokesman, said that every available agent and an evidence response team have been dispatched to the scene to interview witnesses and determine the cause of the explosion.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral William Arthur Ownes (Armed Forces photo)

King meets vice-chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff

AMMAN (Petra) — His

Shafiq Zeid, who is also defence minister, and Adm. Owens reviewed Jordanian-American cooperation, especially in military fields, and discussed issues of common interest to the two countries.

They also discussed the outcome of King Hussein's recent visit to the U.S. and his meeting with President Bill Clinton, members of the American administration and congressmen.

Discussion at the meeting also focused on regional developments and the Middle East peace process. The prime minister stressed the need to reach a comprehensive and just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shafiq Zeid also underlined Jordan's keenness to continue the process to ensure a better future for the region.

The American admiral

voiced his country's support of Jordan in all fields to enable it to achieve the progress it is seeking, especially in defence.

Gen. Mirai also received Adm. Owens and reviewed with him the situation in the region.

They discussed the Jordanian army's role in peacekeeping operations in various parts of the world and means of enhancing bilateral cooperation.

Adm. Owens is a naval officer who advanced from ensign to full admiral. He is the highest ranking officer in the U.S. Navy and has been the vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon in Washington since 1994.

He was born in Bismarck in North Dakota on May 8, 1940.

Peace process in peril if Israel does not join NPT — Jordan

NEW YORK (Petra) — The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has not succeeded in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and certain countries like Israel have succeeded in breaching international controls, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti said Wednesday.

Delivering Jordan's address to the conference on renewing the NPT, Mr. Kabariti said the world should find suitable controls to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to deter the exporters as well as the importers of such weapons.

If we consider the situation in the Middle East we find that Israel has maintained its rejection of calls to join the NPT over the past quarter of a century, despite the success of peace efforts that led to peace agreements.

Mr. Wollman said that a bill requiring a big majority for a withdrawal from the NPT could soon go before parliament and would be supported by several Labour deputies.

The international border is considered that drawn up when Palestine was under British mandate and Syria under the French after World War I.

It was adopted by the United Nations partition plan in 1947 and in the armistice agreement with Syria on July 20, 1949.

By June 4, 1967, two days before war broke out again, Syria held a small strip of land beyond the border, no wider than three kilometres.

Six days later Israel had seized all the Golan, which was "annexed" de facto in 1981.

Mr. Peres tried Wednesday to cool anger to his statement telling journalists the government had not agreed to the principle of withdrawal from the international border.

Mr. Rabin has offered a limited withdrawal on the Golan Heights in exchange for a peace treaty covering security arrangements and di-

stances from the Golan at the main town Katzrin.

Council chief Yehuda Wollman warned Mr. Rabin that Mr. Peres was "trying to drive him into a corner," meaning a position in which he would have to return all the Heights.

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Compromise found in Libyan pilgrimage flights to Mecca

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya

agreed Wednesday to transfer pilgrims bound for Mecca. He did not specify the number of passengers on the second flight.

MENA added that "during the past two days a number of contacts were made between Mr. Mubarak and Col. Qadhafi to exchange views on the matter."

The head of the national carrier, Fahim Rayan, said the Egyptian Air planes would go to Tripoli and Benghazi on Thursday to fly pilgrims directly to the Red Sea city of Jeddah near Mecca.

The pilgrims would wait for Egyptian Air planes to take them to Mecca in Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage in keeping with a U.N. special exemption, MENA said.

"The decision was taken by Col. Qadhafi after a telephone conversation with the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after a second Libyan plane took off from Benghazi," the agency said.

The second plane landed at Tobruk, joining a first jet which arrived earlier from

Tripoli with 159 passengers, a Libyan diplomat told AFP. He did not specify the number of passengers on the second flight.

In New York, after the first Libyan plane left Tripoli, the U.N. Sanctions Committee authorised 45 Egyptian Air flights between Libya and Saudi Arabia to allow 6,000 Libyans to make the Hajj.

Mr. Rayan said that "UN delegates will inspect the passengers and airplanes in Tripoli and Benghazi airports and confirm their flight paths."

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(Continued on page 7)

Mark on Your Calendar

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Thursday, April 27 - Saturday, April 29

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at the
Jordanian Construction Contractors Association Building, Tel 658696



CURFEW IN HEBRON: An Israeli soldier patrols the Hebron market in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Hundreds of Israelis paraded and prayed in Hebron on Tuesday

while troops kept Palestinians residents under a strict curfew for a third day running (AFP photo)

GCC pledges to fight extremism

MANAMA (Agencies) — The six Arab Gulf states on Tuesday vowed to fight "extremism and terrorism" and appealed for increased public vigilance to foil attempts at sedition in the region.

Interior ministers from the six states also pledged their "total support to measures taken by Bahrain to ensure security and stability."

Bahrain has been shaken by violent anti-government demonstrations and attacks on policemen since last December. Bahrain authorities have today accused Iran of exerting its influence on part of the majority Bahraini Shiite community.

Bahrain and its allies Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"The council condemns extremism, which leads to violence and terrorism, and totally rejects such actions in all their forms," said a communiqué issued after an emergency meeting here.

The GCC is determined to confront this destructive phenomenon, which is incompatible with the spirit of Islam."

The statement called on the people of the region to "increase their vigilance and to take precautions to reject the destructive ideas prop-

agated by certain parties who are trying to incite discord and perpetrate acts of violence and terrorism," the minister said. "The incidents were not spontaneous but provoked in implementation of an imported foreign-grown plot."

Egypt conference

Egypt will seek international cooperation to fight terrorism during a U.N. conference on crime prevention to be held in Cairo from April 29 to May 8, Egyptian Interior Minister Hassan Al Alf said Tuesday.

He charged that the recent unrest had been "planned and premeditated," adding that investigations and the religious beliefs of those accused revealed that "an extremist operation" had been behind the violence.

But authorities here, while never explicitly naming Iran, have indirectly denounced what they say has been Iranian influence on the local Shiite activists.

The violence, blamed by western diplomats on economic difficulties, has left 12 people dead, including three policemen.

Bahrain was to be the springboard for destabilising the domestic conditions in the GCC member states... to spread extremism and sedition."

He called for the reinforcement of joint security efforts, saying they were "a comprehensive siege against terrorism."

"The regrettable incidents

were on a basis of religious fundamentalism," the minister said. "The incidents were not spontaneous but provoked in implementation of an imported foreign-grown plot."

The head of Egyptian security said Monday that Egypt and Algeria were already cooperating in training and exchanges of information to combat anti-government militant groups.

Egypt hosted a U.N. Conference on Population and Development in September 1994 without incident, despite threats from militants.

A violent campaign by extremists aimed at toppling the Egyptian government has left 745 people dead since March 1992.

The justice minister said Egypt would propose creating a regional centre based in Cairo and grouping Mediterranean nations for training in crime prevention.

Corruption and "crimes against the environment" would also be on the conference agenda, he added.

All the U.N. member states, as well as the Vatican, Switzerland and Monaco, have been invited to the conference. Most are expected to be represented by their respective interior ministers.

U.N. crimes conferences have been held every five years since 1955. The last one, held in Havana, brought together 123 countries.

Those responsible for attacks in Egypt "receive support, funds and orders from abroad," Mr. Al Alf said. "Terrorists in several European and African countries maintain links."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali are to address the Cairo gathering.

Iran demands pullout of U.S. warships from Gulf

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — President Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran on Tuesday demanded an immediate pullout of U.S. warships from the Gulf.

"We also believe that it is with the regional states to preserve security and stability in this region, not foreign powers," Mr. Rafsanjani said in a speech in the Indian parliament.

The presence of foreign fleets "tend to aggravate tensions," the Iranian president said.

U.S. forces are deployed in the Gulf, ostensibly to guard against renewed Iraqi aggression. The Iranians, who have long aspired to dominate the Gulf, resent the presence of U.S. and European forces in what they consider their sphere of influence.

"We are opposed to the domineering policies of the great powers, particularly U.S. and their efforts to exploit international orga-

nizations and fora for their illegitimate goals," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Mr. Rafsanjani was on a three-day visit to India to seek closer cooperation in modernizing its economy. Iran's economy has suffered because of trade restrictions imposed by the United States and a few other Western nations that accuse Iran of sponsoring "international terrorism."

India wants Iranian help in reaching its exports to the emerging markets of Central Asia. On Tuesday, the two nations along with Turkmenistan signed a trilateral agreement to create a trade route from India to Central Asia through the Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas.

India exports to the Central Asian republics are expensive because they have to go through Russian ports. Officials said the agreement on extending transit facilities to Indian goods was

signed after hectic consultations between the representatives of the three countries.

Boris Shirkhmadov, Turkmenistan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee signed the agreement.

Under the scheme, Indian goods would be shipped to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas where they would be taken by road to the Central Asian republics.

India, seeking to increase trade with Central Asia and reducing the growing influence of its arch-rival Pakistan, in the region, sought Iran's help to win access to a traditional market after losing it following the break up of the former Soviet Union.

India and Iran also signed bilateral agreements covering environmental protection, drug trafficking, cultural ex-

changes, promotion of tourism and cooperation in communications.

Officials said India would help Iran in upgrading its telegraph and communications system. India is already involved in railways and fertilizer projects in Iran.

India and Iran also agreed to form a joint venture company for exploration and production of oil.

Mr. Rafsanjani repeated an Iranian offer to construct a pipeline to carry petroleum from Iran to refineries in India via Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Although Mr. Rafsanjani's visit would lead to closer economic ties, it was unlikely that the two countries would move politically closer. Pursuing free-market reforms, India has improved its relations with the United States, one of Iran's main foes. India also is uncomfortable about Iran's support to Pakistan.

Bank of Egypt demands compensation from U.N.

GENEVA (Agencies) — A panel of lawyers from Germany, the Philippines and Tunisia were on Wednesday and Thursday to examine a claim to the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) from the Bank of Iraq for Gulf war victims.

Sources close to the UNCC said the claim was on behalf of more than 900,000 Egyptian workers in Iraq for the alleged non-transference by Iraqi banks of remittances to their families in Egypt.

Sources in Geneva said that Baghdad had questioned the competence of the arbitration committee.

A U.N. spokesman, and an aide to Giuseppe Baldacci, the Italian commission chairman, confirmed there were "Iraqi reservations," but did not comment further in the absence of clarification from Baghdad.

The consolidated Egyptian claim — with an asserted value of approximately \$300 million — is being examined by a specially appointed panel of commissioners, including jurists from Germany, the Philippines and Tunisia, said the U.N. statement.

The panel must decide whether the commission has jurisdiction over the claim, said the statement.

If the decision on jurisdiction is positive, the proceedings will progress to a second round to decide on the substance of the claim.

Both Iraqi and Egyptian representatives were expected to make formal presentations at the oral hearing.

Prior to a deadline in July last year for claims related to the Gulf war, the U.N. fund financed by Iraqi holdings blocked abroad reportedly received nearly 2.5 million requests from individuals, companies or governments from 90 countries. They demanded compensation totaling \$160 billion.

The governments of Egypt and Iraq filed separate written submissions with the UNCC in Geneva on March 14, presenting their respective views concerning the consolidated claim, by the Central Bank of Egypt, said the U.N. statement.

Diplomats said Iraq had told the commission that it would not attend the hearing, even though it has already submitted a written response

to the Egyptian claim.

"The timing is rather suspicious," one diplomat said. "The feeling is that the commission is getting caught up in the broader issue of oil sales."

Iraq's parliament was formally considering the latest U.N. Security Council resolution laying out the conditions for Iraq's return to the oil market.

The resolution, adopted on Friday, would allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil in the next six months for food and medicine. Thirty per cent of the proceeds would go to the commission to fund compensation payments.

Baghdad's reaction to the resolution has been uniformly negative. The Iraqi cabinet, chaired by President Saddam Hussein, rejected it and called it a "dangerous violation of Iraq's sovereignty."

Diplomats said the panel, led by German Karl-Heinz Boeckstiegel, would meet irrespective of whether the Iraqis turned up. Egypt would still make its case before the panel.

The panel's first task is to decide whether the Egyptian claim is within the jurisdiction of the commission, whose mandate is to compensate "direct losses" caused by the Iraq invasion of Kuwait as a bilateral issue as argued by Baghdad.

Because of Iraq's refusal to make limited oil sales, the commission has so far been starved of funds.

According to the Egyptian claim, Iraqi banks withheld hundreds of millions of dollars in remittances earned by about 900,000 Egyptian workers in Iraq before and just after the invasion. Egypt says that the banks stopped transferring the remittances on August 2, 1990, the day Iraq occupied Kuwait.

Diplomats said the Iraqi Foreign Ministry had sent a letter on Monday to Ambassador Baldacci saying it had not time to prepare properly for the hearing.

But one diplomatic source said the fact that the Iraqis had replied on time to the written submission by Egypt and had indicated last week that they would come suggested that Baghdad had an ulterior political motive, for snubbing the panel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish Cypriots fire on Syrian fishing boat

NICOSIA (AP) — A Syrian fisherman was shot dead when his boat was intercepted in waters off Turkish-controlled northern Cyprus, an official radio station reported Tuesday. Three other fishermen were arrested after the vessel was stopped off the Karpas peninsula, Byrra Radio said. The three crewmen were taken before a court and remanded in custody for three days, the report added. It was the second such incident in a week. Last Thursday, Turkish Cypriot authorities opened fire on a Greek Cypriot boat, saying it had crossed into forbidden waters. They arrested the four-man crew, who were still held in a Turkish Cypriot prison.

Cyprus buys Russian armoured vehicles

NICOSIA (AFP) — Cyprus has agreed to buy 43 Russian armoured vehicles for its national guard, at a cost of 40 million Cyprus pounds (\$85 million). Government spokesman Yiannakis Cassouides, quoted by the Cyprus News Agency, said Tuesday the deal was clinched after the Russian government had guaranteed maintenance of the Toma BMP3 vehicles. The Cypriot national guard consists of 10,000 regular troops and nearly 90,000 reservists, all of them Greek-Cypriots.

Boudiaf accused to stand trial next week

ALGIERS (AFP) — The much-postponed trial of the alleged assassin of Algeria's former President Mohammad Boudiaf is due to begin next week, legal sources said. But lawyers said trial of the Algerian army officer, Second Lieutenant Lembarek Boumaaifi, could yet be delayed again because of his refusal to mount a defense for the murder of Boudiaf, who was gunned down as he gave a speech in June 1992. Judicial authorities have also been unable to find a lawyer to defend the officer, the sources said. Lt. Boumaaifi is currently being held in Blida military prison in the south of the country, having been transferred from Algiers' Serkadji jail following a riot by prisoners during which he received slight leg injuries. Lt. Boumaaifi told investigators he acted alone out of "religious conviction" in the killing. He was part of the presidential guard when he was alleged to have thrown a grenade at the official stand and shot Boudiaf in the back with a machine-gun as the president made a speech in the eastern town of Annaba on June 1992.

War may be solution for Jerusalem — Shenuda

CAIRO (AFP) — Pope Shenouda III, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church, said war may be the only way for the Arabs to win back Jerusalem, in an interview published Wednesday. Israel "might make concessions on a number of territories but I think Jerusalem is a major obstacle which perhaps can only be solved by war," the patriarch of Egypt's Christians told the government weekly Al Musawwar. "The Israelis are prepared to fight for Jerusalem down to the last bullet and the last man," which will require "a unified Arab position," he added. Pope Shenouda, who opposes visits by Egyptian Christians to the Holy City, has said he would forbid from communion anyone who went to Jerusalem for the Orthodox Easter on April 23. Egypt is home to some eight million Christians, according to unofficial estimates.

8 drug smugglers beheaded in Jeddah

RIYADH (AP) — Seven Pakistanis and a Nigerian were beheaded in Jeddah Wednesday for drug smuggling, matching the record for the number of traffickers executed in a single day in the kingdom. Eight narcotics smugglers, including five Pakistanis and an Afghani, were beheaded in Saudi Arabia Monday. The Interior Ministry said the eight men executed Wednesday were convicted by Islamic courts of smuggling drugs hidden in their stomachs into Jeddah.

Securing border with Iraq headache for Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Protecting its border with Iraq once the military push against Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq is over is a major headache for Turkey.

The governments of Egypt and Iraq filed separate written submissions with the UNCC in Geneva on March 14, presenting their respective views concerning the consolidated claim, by the Central Bank of Egypt, said the U.N. statement.

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have any chance of success, Turkey needs to effect reconciliation between the Iraqi Kurds rebels in northern Iraq is over is a major headache for Turkey.

Ruling out a multinational solution, Turkey is banking on cooperation with the main Kurdish movements of Iraq to patrol the borders and stop infiltration by the Kurds of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) fighting for its own homeland in Turkey since 1984.

The first obstacle to such a deal is that the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) of Massoud Barzani and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) under Jalal Talabani have been involved in intermittent armed clashes for the past year as they wrestle for control of northern Iraq, where President Saddam Hussein's writ has failed to run since the end of the Gulf war in February-March 1991.

Those hostilities are partially to blame for the power vacuum in the frontier zone which allows the PKK to its part to operate at will. To

those ends, the KDP and PUK units have been down towards the south-east near the Iranian border.

But the policing arrange-

ment failed to work for a variety of reasons, including about the workability of the Turkish plan and wished Turkey and the rebels "would settle their scores in Turkey, not in the north of Iraq" to force the Iraqi Kurds to help out, Turkey has no not inconsiderable means of pressure available.

Firstly, it can threaten to close down Habur, which would dry up KDP revenues. Secondly, as a Turkish diplomat hinted, it could make the much tougher move to stop offering "protection" to Iraqi Kurds through Operation Provide Comfort, whereby U.N. surveillance of northern Iraq relies on Turkish rearbase facilities. The mandate is renewable every six months, and the next vote by the Turkish parliament is due in June.

But that threat would be difficult to carry out because of certain opposition from the United States, which wants current anti-Saddam policy to stay in place, as Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott reminded the government on a visit last week.

Contacts with Barzani stalled in the Zakho region border ill for a successful outcome. Politburo member Farid Mirani voiced doubts

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

	Khalifeh pharmacy	085417	HOSPITALS	FOR THE TRAVELLER
Agaba	11/28		AMMAN:	QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Deserts	3/32		Hussien Medical Centre	(Terminal 1)
Jordan Valley	11/27		Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann	
USEFUL			Akilah Maternity, J. Ann	
TELEPHONE			Rescue	Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
NUMBERS			Civil Defence	Riyadh (SV)
NIGHT DUTY			Emergency	Dubai (EK)
AMMAN:			Fire Brigade	Cairo (MS)
Dr. Fakher Bilbesi	663412		Rescue Police	Angkor (TK)
Dr. Khalidoun Asfour	699440		Police	02-35 Amsterdam (KL)

Home News

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ire on Syrian fishing boat
rian Saberman was shot dead as
ed in waters off Turkish coast.
official radio station reported re-
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peninsula. Byak Radio said
were taken before a court
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former President Moustafa
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red to mount a defense if he
was gunned down in his
defend the officer, the Queen
is currently being held at the
south of the country, having been
Serkadi jail following his
he received slight leg injuries
in the killing. He was paroled
and shot Boudah in the head.
the president made a speech at
the end of June 1992.

for Jerusalem — Sharm
Shenouda III, head of the Coptic
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an interview with
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Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opens the first Pan-Arab Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Photo by Crystal)

Queen opens first pan-Arab congress of obstetrics and gynaecology

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opened the first Pan-Arab Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology organised by the Jordanian Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (JSOG), a Royal Court statement said.

Queen Noor, who is the Honorary President of the JSOG, also opened a medical exhibition on the sidelines of the conference, the statement said.

The Queen was welcomed by Ahmad Abdul Wahed, the secretary-general of the congress, who praised her contributions in raising the health and social standards of Jordanian women, and expressed the JSOG's eagerness to cooperate with the Nour Al Hussein Foundation's Institute of Child Health and Development.

The Queen concluded her visit by personally thanking the speakers and the members of the executive committee of the congress, the statement said.

The first Pan-Arab Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, which is also the third national congress, comprises 500 participants from Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Bahrain,

The 3-day conference is being held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Princess Basma stresses importance of effort towards women's health

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma returned from Perth, Australia, where she attended the third meeting of the Global Commission on Women's Health, a Queen Alia Fund for Social Development statement Wednesday said.

At the meeting, Princess Basma, who joined the commission earlier this year, stressed the importance of cooperation on women's health issues on the regional and global levels, the statement said.

The commission was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations and comprises eminent personali-

ties, including political, scientific and professional leaders throughout the world.

It is concerned that women suffer a disadvantaged health status throughout their lives, as compared to men. This is a result of the disadvantaged legal, economic and social status of women, whose specific needs and characteristics are inadequately addressed in health policy, delivery and research, the commission believes.

The Global Commission on Women's Health has several goals related to its aim of fully achieving the realisation of women's health based upon the inalienable right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, according to the commission.

The third meeting focused on the discussion of a global platform of action for the health chapter of the World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September and which emerged from the Preparatory Committee meeting in New York last November.

The meeting resulted in a declaration on the points which the commission felt should be stressed in Beijing as well as a coordination plan of action that is to set the tasks of the commission and the individual members during the Beijing conference.

The gathering, attended by about 50 participants representing the government as well as the private sector, was the first of its kind to be held in Jordan.

As participants put it, oversights that lead to slack in quality control and buyer's specifications could be devastating for small companies.

They cited the instance of a Jordanian company which sent a consignment of finished goods to Ukraine but could not get paid simply because the goods did not conform to the buyer's specifications.

The buyer, who was protected by a clause that said payment was contingent

upon successful inspection of the goods, simply refused to pay.

This would not have happened had there been a mechanism under which an international organisation acceptable to both the seller and buyer carried out the inspection and made sure that the goods were not shipped without meeting the required specifications.

That is where Lloyd's Register comes into play, said its representatives at the workshop. They noted that the organisation had offices/representatives in almost every country who could be called upon to carry out inspections on exports and issue certificates to the satisfaction of both parties.

Another problem is to do with the environment. In many cases, potential Western donors and financiers balk at extending funds to projects which might harm the environment, noted Tawfiq Kawar, who chaired the working sessions of the seminar.

"We in Jordan do not have a law on the environment," noted Mr. Kawar, a prominent businessman and president of the Jordan Shipping Agents' Association.

"What we urgently need is the enactment of a law on the environment that will be conforming with international and United Nations specifications that would eventually be applicable to every industry."

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More than 260 ill after odour detected at Japan rail station

YOKOHAMA, Japan (AFP) — More than 260 people fell ill Wednesday from fumes detected at a railway station in the Tokyo commuter belt, triggering fears of a new nerve gas attack on the Japanese transport system.

Japanese police said they were investigating the incident at Yokohama, 30 kilometres southwest of Tokyo, as a case of "assault and battery."

"It was not a natural phenomenon but involved a foreign object," a spokesman for Yokohama's prefectoral police told AFP. "We are investigating it as a case of assault and battery."

Police are still trying to determine the source of the deadly nerve gas sarin that killed 12 people and injured 5,500 in a random attack on the Tokyo subway only a month earlier.

Home Affairs Minister Hiroshi Nonaka said checks on the casualties from Yokohama showed no traces of the highly toxic gas.

A police spokesman said at least 261 people reported feeling ill, and 19 were hospitalized.

The Japan Broadcasting Corp., NHK, said 304 people had been treated at hospitals,

with some saying that they smelled a pungent odour similar to sulphur or paint thinner.

"When everybody around me was coughing, the word sarin popped up and fear came to me immediately," Kyoko Amano, 52, told AFP. She was treated for a minor headache after inhaling fumes in the train station's underground corridor.

Ms. Amano said her husband, Kiyosuke, 51, was hospitalized with high blood pressure and a headache after the pair rushed to a police box at the train station after inhaling the fumes. She said scores of other victims were already there, complaining of similar symptoms.

The vast majority of the casualties were not seriously hurt and all were conscious, officials said. They mainly complained of throat pains, nausea, irritated eyes and coughs.

A doctor at a hospital in Yokohama, Shigehiko Hatatori, ruled out sarin poisoning and said "they may have possibly inhaled chlorine-based or other chemicals."

The fumes were detected in the main underground concourse of Yokohama's central train station, and on a

train that stopped there, local reports said.

Police suspect the doomsday cult Aum Supreme Truth in the Tokyo subway attack, but cult leaders denied Wednesday any involvement in that gassing or the Yokohama incident.

"I wish they would catch the real perpetrators soon," said Aum attorneys Yoshinori Aoyama.

Witnesses told police that they saw suspicious looking men, one carrying a brown bag, at stations in Yokohama about the time the smell broke out in the train, reports said.

Ryoko Akimoto, 19, who works at a store at the train station, said she saw a large crowd of pain-stricken commuters stampede immediately after the smell was detected at about 1:00 p.m. (0400 GMT).

"I've never seen anything like it, they were all running so fast," she said.

Police beefed up patrols in the Tokyo subway late Wednesday.

Kei Inukai, 22, a businessman who passed through one of the corridors where the smell originated said, "It's just scary."

"I thought such incidents

were far from us. It appears that there is no safe place left in Japan."

Scores of passengers also reported ill at two neighbouring stations on the Tokyo-Yokohama line after arriving by train from Yokohama. Three female passengers were treated for throat pains and other ailments after they arrived at two Tokyo train stations from Yokohama, police said.

Dozens of fire engines, police cars and ambulances were rushed to Yokohama station and rescue workers clad in chemical protection suits with air tanks walked among commuters on the train station platform.

Police also cordoned off a station underpass where the smell originated, and hundreds of soldiers and police officers scoured the area for evidence.

The station and the underpass were later reopened in time for the evening rush hour.

Sarin, devised by the Nazis in the 1930s, is so lethal that a small droplet is enough to kill an adult. It is also odourless, although survivors of the March 20 atrocity reported a vile, pungent smell.



Pastor Tuiliani Martial (right) presides over funeral services for Cheyenne Brando, the daughter of U.S. actor Marlon Brando, in Papeete, Tahiti. Brando, 25, hanged herself at her mother's home in Tahiti. She was buried in the family crypt of her boyfriend Dag Drollet, in Papeete, Tahiti. (AP photo)

Brando misses daughter's funeral in Tahiti

PAPEETE, French Polynesia (R) — Actor Marlon Brando's daughter Cheyenne, who hanged herself Sunday, was buried Tuesday alongside her murdered boyfriend on the South Pacific island of Tahiti.

There was no sign of her father as Cheyenne was laid to rest in the Uranie Cemetery on the French Polynesian island in a flower-covered coffin alongside Dag Drollet, shot by her half-brother Christian nearly five years ago.

The proposal for Cheyenne to be buried next to her murdered boyfriend was made by Drollet's father Jacques-Denis in an agreement with Cheyenne's Tahitian family.

She was found hanged in her bedroom in Punaauia on the west of the island Sunday.

Relatives said she had been depressed since the murder of Drollet, for which Christian is serving a jail sentence.

She had made three previous attempts to kill herself and had been treated for depression in France and the United States as well as Tahiti.

She was said to be particularly upset by a Papeete judge's decision to leave her young son Tuki in the care of Cheyenne's mother Tarita, a Tahitian actress who was Brando's third wife.

Tarita was among more than 200 mourners. Cheyenne's half-brother Mike also attended the funeral.

The ceremony was led by a Protestant priest at a church in Faa, west of Tahiti's main town, Papeete.

During Christian's trial, the court was told that before Drollet was killed, Cheyenne, then four months pregnant, had complained of having been beaten by her lover.

Charges against Cheyenne for complicity in the murder were dropped in 1993 after legal wrangling.

Her lawyer Jacques Verges, a colourful French advocate who has also represented Carlos "the Jackal" and Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie, argued that because of her depression, the proceedings were a threat to her life.

The ceremony was led by a Protestant priest at a church in Faa, west of Tahiti's main town, Papeete.

During his son's trial, Brando broke a long public silence, telling reporters and photographers he had become a recluse to preserve his sanity.

"This (Hollywood) is a false world, and it's been a struggle to try to preserve your sanity in world that has been taken away from you," he said at the time.

More recently, he returned to the screen with a role in the comedy *The Freshman* as well as an acclaimed performance as a psychiatrist in the romantic comedy *Don Juan De Marco*.

Last year, he published his autobiography and appeared in a long and rambling live interview with Larry King on CNN television.

One of the United States' great actors, Brando's performances in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951), *The Wild One* (1953) and *On the Waterfront* (1954) were acclaimed as classics.

Brando won Academy Awards for his roles in *On the Waterfront* and *The Godfather* (1972). But much of his later career was an anti-climax and his family life was full of turmoil.

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Chinese road deaths up 9.7%

BEIJING (AFP) — China's roads claimed 15,562 lives in the first three months of this year, up 9.7 per cent from the same 1994 period, the Xinhua News Agency said. The number of accidents was up 4.1 per cent to 61,227, while economic losses resulting from crashes surged 35.1 per cent to 389 million yuan (\$46 million) the agency said late Tuesday. China's economic growth has been mirrored by a sharp rise in road accidents and fatalities amid a boom in the number of privately owned vehicles. More than 66,000 people died on the roads in the whole of 1994, up 4.5 per cent from the previous year. Xinhua quoted Ministry of Public Security officials as urging transport departments nationwide to improve order on the country's roads and take strict measures to reduce the number of major accidents.

French musician wins damages over article

PARIS (AFP) — A judge ordered a weekly scandal magazine Tuesday to pay 50,000 francs (\$10,000) to French synthesizer superstar Jean-Michel Jarre for invasion of privacy — but did not entirely spare his blushes in the case. Judge Marie-Therese Feydeau said the composer of *Oxygene* and *Equinoxe* and his British wife Charlotte Rampling had not always shown complete discretion and should not be surprised at their treatment. Jarre had been demanding the withdrawal of this week's edition of the magazine *Voice* over an article and photographs suggesting he has been seeing another woman. He had also been demanding one million francs in damages against the magazine "incontestably pried on the private life of Jean-Michel Jarre," and she therefore ordered the 50,000 francs damages to be paid by the publishers of the magazine, Prisma Presse. But she added that the article should not have surprised him.

Critics both hailed and panned his performances in later movies, such as *Last Tango in Paris* (1972) and *Apocalypse Now* (1979), mirroring the entertainment industry's ambivalent attitude towards him.

China to lift foreign film quota

BEIJING (AFP) — China has decided to lift its quota on foreign film imports, while brushing aside concerns that overseas blockbusters will hurt the ailing domestic movie industry. As well as lifting the quota — which has stood at around 60 films a year — the director of the China Film Export and Import Corp. (CHINAFILM), Wang Zengfu, said that China would see through its 1994 pledge to import 10 top-grossing foreign films annually. The U.S. blockbuster *True Lies* — starring Arnold Schwarzenegger — is due to open in cinemas across China later this month. It would be "unwise" to protect domestic studios by closing their market to the outside world, Mr. Wang was quoted as saying by the Xinhua News Agency. Overseas competition will "help develop the Chinese film industry," Mr. Wang said, adding that the imports were needed to satisfy popular demand. China's state-run film industry, dogged by poor quality production, has been in free-fall since 1979, with box office receipts plunging from 29.3 billion yuan (\$3.4 billion) to 9.5 billion yuan in 1993. Following the lifting of the quota, CHINAFILM will continue to act as the sole importer of foreign films, the number of which will be determined by CHINAFILM's capacity and "market fluctuations," Mr. Wang said.

Crews freeze ground for cables under Pisa Tower

PISA, Italy (AP) — Crew used liquid nitrogen to freeze the ground around the Leaning Tower of Pisa Tuesday while starting to install cables designed to pull the structure more upright. Hundreds of visitors watched columns of white vapor from the super cold material rise from holes around the 54-metre (180-foot) tower. Liquid nitrogen was used to avoid dangerous ground vibrations during work intended to salvage the 12th century landmark.

Clinton declares he is relevant

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton's voice

may not be as loud as it once was, given Republican control of Congress, but he is insisting he is relevant and determined to prove it.

Mr. Clinton himself raised the issue of his own relevance during a Tuesday night news conference that he wanted to use to score some political points while

World News

Chinese road
deaths up 9.7%

PARIS (Agencies) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe accused Prime Minister Edouard Balladur Wednesday of waging a hate campaign against fellow-conservative presidential rival Jacques Chirac, injecting new venom five days before the first round of the election.

He said Mr. Balladur was deliberately distorting Mr. Chirac's words on wage demands and economic policy.

Mr. Juppe is tipped as Mr. Balladur's possible successor as premier if, as polls forecast, Mr. Chirac wins the two-round election on Sunday and May 7.

"It is not normal for things to have taken this turn, which is almost fatal. If Mr. Balladur spent one-tenth of the energy fighting (Socialist candidate) Lionel Jospin that he spends attacking Jacques Chirac, he would have a better chance of reaching the second round," Mr. Juppe told France-Inter radio.

"Mr. Balladur is using arguments in bad faith," he said, accusing the prime minister of distorting Mr. Chirac's expression of sympathy for some wage claims by claiming that the Paris mayor wanted to give everyone a pay rise immediately.

Mr. Juppe also charged Mr. Balladur with using tactics "unworthy of a statesman" by accusing Mr. Chirac of weakening the French franc on currency markets with his criticism of Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet's call for wage restraint.

The franc slipped against the German mark Monday in what dealers said was a reaction to Mr. Chirac's comments that Mr. Trichet had no right to dictate economic policy to the government.

The last opinion poll published before a blackout took effect last Sunday showed Mr. Chirac with a comfortable lead on about 26 per cent, followed by Mr. Jospin on about 20 per cent and Mr. Balladur with just over 16 per cent.

Comments by several



French Socialist Party presidential candidate Lionel Jospin meets supporters in the central city of Lyon with former Socialist Minister Martine Aubry (right) before holding a campaign meeting. The first round of elections is set for April 23 (AFP photo)

prominent Balladur supporters in the cabinet Tuesday suggested they doubted the prime minister would reach the run-off between the two best-placed candidates to succeed Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

"Many French people are still questioning themselves," he told Radio Classique before addressing a rally of about 8,000 people in Nantes, west France, in which he urged supporters to keep up their enthusiasm in the final days.

"French voters... believed at the last election that things were going to change, but now they haven't," he said, projecting himself as the candidate best able to unite the French.

Philippe Mechet of the Louis Harris Polling Institute said the weakness of the left made the election hard to predict.

"Jospin has a potential far higher than his current vote. The problem is that he has not managed to convince the undecided that he can be elected," he told *la Chaine Info* Television.

Many leftists, dismayed by polls showing Mr. Jospin

would lose to both Mr. Chirac and Mr. Balladur in the run-off, are tempted to vote for new Communist leader Robert Hue or veteran Trotskyist Arlette Laguiller, who sound more militant.

Urging the left to rally behind him on the first ballot, former Education Minister Jospin told about 8,000 supporters in Lyon in central France that France needed only one able to provide them. Among his pledges are to cut the working week to 37 hours in 1997 from 39 now.

Mr. Balladur insisted Wednesday his economic policies for low-inflationary growth and a stable franc were the best recipe for the nation.

Speaking on French radio, Mr. Balladur said his policies since taking office two years ago had "succeeded" and were preferable to those offered by Mr. Chirac.

Mr. Balladur said Mr. Chirac's policies meant "more expenditure and thus more deficits."

"Everything he (Chirac) says is an accumulation of spending, subsidies and allocations in all directions, which will lead to an aggravation of deficits and can only

lead to disillusionment," Mr. Balladur charged.

The premier said the monetary crisis France experienced in the summer of 1993 resulted from "doubts" in the world community over Paris pursuing a policy of competitive disinflation.

On Tuesday, Mr. Balladur had lashed out at what he termed Mr. Chirac's "irresponsibility" in calling for wage hikes to bolster recovery, saying such a call risked "putting the brake on job creation."

On the issue of a single European currency, which the Maastricht Treaty on European Union foresees by 1997 or 1999 at the latest, Mr. Balladur said he would not harm growth to reach the debt and other convergence criteria to reach it.

Answering comments by former centre-right President Valery Giscard d'Estaing that introducing a single currency by 1997 was incompatible with a programme to curb joblessness running at 12 per cent, Mr. Balladur said he did not "see the necessity to install a job recovery" programme as jobs and economic activity were in his view already on the up.

In answer to a question by former centre-right President Valery Giscard d'Estaing that introducing a single currency by 1997 was incompatible with a programme to curb joblessness running at 12 per cent, Mr. Balladur said he did not "see the necessity to install a job recovery" programme as jobs and economic activity were in his view already on the up.

Russians retreat after taking Chechen stronghold

Interior Ministry operation, told Interfax.

The retreat appeared to deal a blow to Russian efforts to completely control all of the fertile and industrially developed areas of northern and central Chechnya.

Gen. Kulikov, who is briefly resting in Moscow, told a news conference earlier Wednesday that the Russian troops had forced the last rebel fighters out of Batum in western Chechnya.

Batum is the last important rebel stronghold on Chechnya's lowland. Most of the rebels, fighting for the southern Russian region's independence from Moscow, are now in mountains in southern Chechnya.

Gen. Kulikov declared most of Russia's aims had

now been achieved since it sent troops to Chechnya on Dec. 11 to end the tiny north Caucasus region's three-year-old independence drive led by rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"Today, Dudayev has no social or economic grounds for continuing the armed struggle," Gen. Kulikov said. "More than 80 per cent of Chechen territory, where more than 90 per cent of the population lives, has been freed from the illegal fighters."

Gen. Kulikov said 1,518 Russian servicemen had been killed and almost 5,000 wounded achieving those goals, and that Moscow estimated 9,000 to 9,500 Chechen fighters had been killed.

People might create new tensions and endanger a plan by the government to end an 18-month-old political crisis and ethnic violence.

"It is urgent these disaster victims are supported... so preparations for their return and resettlement can continue in peace and security," said the president, a member of the Hutu majority.

"The government of the republic of Burundi and I launch an urgent appeal to all friendly countries, international organisations, NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and to all people of goodwill to send their contributions..."

"The most urgent issue is to provide food security," he said.

Bands and villagers late last month looted several U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) trucks taking food aid to camps in the northeast for the 200,000 Rwandan refugees in Burundi.

Burundian troops are now escorting WFP food convoys.

The U.N. food agency is currently feeding 400,000 internally displaced people, warning shortages may endanger a drive to farms.

In January, WFP was providing rations to 508,000 displaced.

The displaced fled during the slaughter of up to 100,000 people following the killing of President Melchior Ndayave, the first freely-elected Hutu head of state, in 1993 Tutsi troops.

Displaced Rwandans ordered home despite killings

KIGALI (R) — Relief agencies scrambled Wednesday to help some 100,000 displaced people ordered by Rwandan troops to abandon a camp in the southwest and go home.

But as the operation began, a U.N. spokesman in the capital Kigali said government troops last Friday slaughtered 16 civilian men in the southwest in retaliation for an attack.

News of the killings appeared certain to increase fears among the 300,000 displaced men, women and children in camps in the southwest which Rwanda's government says must be closed.

U.N. spokesman Ismail Diallo said the 16 were shot and killed and one was wounded on the banks of the Rubavu River in the southwest after unidentified gunmen attacked Rwanda Patriotic Army (RPA) troops, killing one and wounding one.

He said 20 RPA soldiers later rounded up 17 local men, all civilians, and took them to the banks of the Rubavu River, 22 kilometres southeast of the border town of Cyangugu, and gunned them down.

Sixteen were killed. One who was wounded pretended to be dead and later reached Masheba Hospital, where he was treated.

The United Nations is in

with the army and the government and views these killings with great concern," said Mr. Diallo, adding the bodies were left on the river bank.

The government has said some members of the Hutu majority have been killed in

isolated incidents by troops in revenge for the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutus last year.

But it has repeatedly assured innocent Hutu refugees and displaced people that it is safe to return to their homes.

To ensure they left, RPA troops, cordoned off Kibeho camp in the southwest Tuesday and fired into the air, triggering a stampede by tens of thousands of displaced Hutus.

At least eight residents were crushed to death.

The men, women and children crowded in panic onto a central hill in the camp, abandoning their huts on four other hills.

Soldiers told them they had few days to leave Kibeho and go home as part of the drive to close all such camps, which the government sees as strongholds for Hutu militiamen a year after the genocide.

Kibeho, with some 120,000 residents, remained cordoned off by troops late Tuesday and no movement was allowed in or out.

The Hutus, who fear attack in revenge for the genocide, include former militiamen and troops involved in the slaughter.

The action by the Tutsi-dominated army caught aid agencies by surprise but they said they could only help camp residents leave because the government had sovereignty over camps in its territory.

U.N. officials said trucks, including more than 20 from the U.N. Assistance Mission In Rwanda, would be sent to

provide food and supplies urgently to the small Central African state.

"In addition to the almost total lack of resources (in Burundi), we now have the serious problem of the exhaustion of available food stocks," the president said.

He said shortages of food for refugees and displaced

Serbs tighten noose on Sarajevo

France gives U.N. 48 hours, warns of pullout

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — The United Nations called in NATO jets to quiet a battle in the suburbs of the Bosnian capital that threatened to spiral out of control.

Two U.S. F-16s, already patrolling Bosnian airspace, buzzed the frontline separating government forces in Hrasnica and Bosnian Serbs in Ilidza late Tuesday. Both are suburbs next to the U.N.-controlled Sarajevo Airport.

"NATO air presence was called in as we weren't sure how this situation would develop," said Lt. Col. Gary Coward, chief U.N. military spokesman. "We were not entirely sure of the situation on the ground and didn't wish to see it deteriorating further."

"We believe air presence has an element of deterrence," he added.

Serbs and government forces exchanged fire in the area near Mount Igman, south of the airport and Sarajevo, throughout much of Tuesday, but fighting intensified at dusk.

After warning both sides to halt their firing, the United Nations requested a NATO show of force. Jets soon arrived and remained in the area for more than 90 minutes, except for a 15-minute refuelling period when the shelling briefly resumed.

Earlier Tuesday, Bosnian Serbs fired anti-aircraft guns at traffic moving through government-held suburbs and over Mount Igman, which they had shelled Monday night, using 120-mm mortars in violation of a heavy weapons ban around the capital. That prompted Bosnian government forces to return fire from their mountaintop positions, sparking the skirmish that

escalated in the evening.

Butmir, a government suburb next to Hrasnica, was also shelled by Serbs Tuesday, U.N. officials said. Butmir houses the entrance to a tunnel under the airport runway, which the government constructed in summer 1993 to link the city centre with Igman and routes west to Croatia.

Bosnian police said three people were wounded in the Butmir shelling.

A U.N. plane en route to Sarajevo was also forced to turn back Tuesday afternoon after Bosnian Serbs noted it was carrying civilians and "warned U.N. staff that they could not guarantee the safety of the plane," Col. Coward said.

The Ilyushin-76 was the first U.N. flight to carry civilians since Sarajevo Airport closed on April 8 after gunfire hit an American-owned U.N. cargo plane. A limited number of U.N. troop rotation and military resupply flights landed over the weekend and Monday.

"I hope the United Nations will act within the next 48 hours. We cannot wait indefinitely," Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said.

Otherwise, Paris would consider withdrawing its soldiers from the U.N. force, he added.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said the stubbornness of the warring parties was the main reason for deadlock in the search for peace but differences between Moscow and Washington were also to blame.

"If we all had the same desire to reach a solution, we would succeed but the Russians encourage Belgrade to ask too much while the United States fails to show the necessary determination to encourage Sarajevo to agree

to end hostilities," Mr. Juppe told France Inter radio.

"This is the reason why France has said (to the international community) that now we must wake up" to the situation in Bosnia, he said.

A resolution drafted by France for action by the U.N. Security Council would have the secretary-general propose ways to protect its peacekeepers more effectively and enable them to fulfil their mission.

It would call on rival Muslims, Serbs and Croats to extend a ceasefire due to expire at the end of the month and urgently resume peace negotiations.

Should the U.N. fail to act in time, "the problem is raised of the withdrawal of our soldiers from Bosnia," Mr. Balladur said in an interview with French radio RFI.

France's 4,500-strong contingent is the largest in Bosnia.

Meanwhile mine blasts injured three British U.N. peacekeeping soldiers Wednesday, one seriously, when their patrol in the eastern Bosnian enclave of Gorazde wandered into a mine field, a U.N. spokesman said.

Col. Coward said that one man "stepped on a mine. When two others went to assist him, a second detonation was heard," Col. Coward said. Two of the men had leg injuries, the other sustained wounds to the upper body.

Col. Coward also said the men came under small-arms fire during the early-morning incident from Bosnian army forces, though he added that "the Bosnian (soldiers) may have mistaken them (for enemy troops)."

Russia wants U.N. to help police Tajik borders

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia wants the United Nations to help the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) police the border between the Tajikistan and Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said on Wednesday.

He mentioned the success in Batum, which is near the border with the Ingushetia region in southern Russia, almost in passing and without fanfare.

The Chechen venture, originally expected to last only hours, has badly tarnished President Boris Yeltsin's democratic record and has damaged relations with foreign governments.

"We would like to see the world community more actively — that is more practically — involved in operations."

President Chandrika Kumaratunga reacted to the pre-dawn strike against the navy, which left 16 people dead, while reimposing an economic embargo on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

She also said security forces across the country had been placed on maximum alert. An army spokesman confirmed that troops had been given shoot-to-kill orders to defend their camps following the collapse of the peace process.

The Chechen venture, originally expected to last only hours, has badly tarnished President Boris Yeltsin's democratic record and has damaged relations with foreign governments.

"We would like to see the world community more actively — that is more practically — involved in operations."

Mr. Kozyrev said the CIS states would use the most decisive means possible to end bloodshed in Tajikistan.

But he said Russia favoured a political and democratic solution to the problems in Tajikistan, where the Dushanbe government is at odds with Islamic rebels and members of the opposition based in the eastern district of Gorno-Badakhshan.

Defence ministers from the Commonwealth of Independent States have appointed a new officer to command peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, Interfax News Agency said Wednesday.

Russian military officials said earlier this week that the current commander, Valery Patrikhev, was due to leave his job after more than 12 months in Tajikistan. Interfax said he would be replaced by Lieutenant-General Valentin Bobrovskiy.

Tajik government officials and rebel leaders met in Moscow Wednesday, but the discussions are due to centre on when and where to hold a new round of peace talks rather than on what action can be taken to bring the two sides

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO

Faximile: 696183

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The seeds of threat

THE NEW York conference on the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is bogged down on several fronts both procedural and substantive. It is still too early to prejudge the outcome of the meeting since there are considerable behind-the-scenes negotiations between the nuclear haves and have-nots that aim to bridge the gap between the two camps. The ongoing controversy about the extent of the renewal of the NPT may also see the Arabs divided among themselves. The fact that only the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan are attending the conference indicates that substantial division within the Arab camp on how to respond to the five major nuclear powers' call for an indefinite extension of the treaty will emerge.

Inter-Arab disagreement, however, is not without a legitimate cause. On the one hand, the Arab World would like to see nothing more than a nuclear free zone regime in the Middle East and North Africa. On the other, the Arabs have all the reasons to fear Israel's continued nuclear hegemony over the Arab countries. There was a time when Israel professed never to be "the first to introduce" nuclear weapons to the region. That posture has developed recently to a pledge not to be "the first to use" such mass destruction weapons. This shift in position has come about after revelations that the Jewish state has more than 200 warheads in its arsenal.

The Israeli policy on the future of the NPT is further complicated by its insistence that it cannot commit itself to the treaty before a comprehensive peace is achieved in the region, including peace between Israel and Iraq and Iran. The trouble with this seemingly benign perspective lies squarely in the fact that the need for a comprehensive peace cuts both ways. The Arabs also need the assurance of a full and complete peace before they can feel safe and secure from the threat of Israel's nuclear arsenal.

Israel goes even further by questioning the good faith of some regional powers, such as Iran and Iraq, even if they signed the treaty. This means that even if there were a comprehensive peace in the region, Israel would still feel free to stay out of the treaty on the premise that neither Baghdad nor Tehran signatures can be taken at face value.

In this context, Israel needs to see this issue both ways. The Arab side also has all the justifications to doubt the intentions of Israel even if it gets around to signing the treaty. The Israeli Dimona reactor was discovered in 1961 by U.S. monitors. Only a decade ago the world was able to establish as a fact that there are more than 200 nuclear warheads in Israel when an Israeli technician told the London Sunday Times about them. This Israeli ambivalence can only encourage certain Arab or Muslim countries to opt to go nuclear at one stage or another. Meanwhile, the pledge of the five big powers to come to the rescue of any country that is threatened by a nuclear force is meaningless. The Israeli threat is already there and the Arabs will not feel safe unless that threat is removed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JUDGING FROM its continued repressive policies in the occupied Arab lands and its latest offer to the Palestinians to set up a state only in Gaza, it is obvious that Israel is not interested in a lasting peace with its neighbours, said Ibrahim Al Absi, a columnist in Al Ra'i Wednesday. Not only did Israel fail to live up to its pledges contained in the declaration of principles with the Palestinians, which provide for a redeployment of troops and arranging for Palestinian elections, but it has now offered to recognise a Palestinian state in Gaza alone, thus going back on its commitments and demonstrating its determination to perpetuate its occupation of the rest of Palestine, said the writer.

DESPITE REPEATED calls on the Labour Ministry to control the Jordanian labour market and open the door for local workers to find jobs, the flow of guest workers into Jordan is continuing, said Mohammad Daoud, a writer in Al Dastur. The government seems not concerned with curtailing the number of non-Jordanian workers, and the employers seem quite happy with this situation as long as the guest workers provide cheap labour and ensure for the businesses a larger margin of profit, he said. Demanding that the Labour Ministry stop issuing work permits to non-Jordanians, the writer said it is illogical to see 120,000 guest workers filling jobs which could be taken by Jordanians. What the Labour Ministry can do, he said, is adopt a final decision banning foreign workers from entering the country, and terminating the presence of non-Jordanians once their work permits expire.

View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubah

The opposition in Israel: delirious but dangerous

THE POSITION of the various Israeli rejectionist and opposition groups, including not only members of the fanatical religious sects and settlements but also extreme political hardliners such as the Likud Party itself, is not helping much during this particularly critical and difficult stage of the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially with respect to Palestinian-Israeli peace. Through their unconvincing disruptive and obstructive tactics in the Knesset, their outrageous public declarations, their frequent irresponsible deeds and acts of aggression and (not less regrettably) their remarkably selfish, subversive and racist attitudes, the said groups currently pose a real obstacle, if not a serious threat, to peace with the Palestinians (and with other Arab countries with which peace agreements have not yet been concluded).

Take, for example, the statements we heard a few days ago, some of which were reiterated by members of Yitzhak Rabin's own party: that "talks with Palestinians ought to be suspended until acts of violence and terror come to an end," that such acts "have increased because of the peace deal with the Palestinians," that the Israeli "army ought to be redeployed into Gaza and Jericho," and so forth.

At one level, such statements are not to be taken seriously. For one thing, they are too simple-minded, too ridiculous and too non-sensical to be swallowed by any (Arabs or Israelis) except those who make them. Who, in his/her right mind, would believe that suspension of talks with Palestinians and redeployment of Israeli forces in Gaza and Jericho would bring about stability and peace of mind to the Palestinians and Israelis? The Israeli army was there not long ago and peace talks were non-existent not long ago, and there was violence and terror. Who, in his/her right mind, would buy into the perverse logic that the peace deal has brought about and escalated violence? Isn't continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories itself the real cause? Aren't Israel's oppressive measures against Palestinians and Israel's procrastination and disregard of the promises and commitments it made to Palestinians in Oslo, Washington and Cairo the real cause?

For another, such statements are perhaps mere rhetoric and sheer political manoeuvring which amount to little outside the context of political rivalry among the various parties in Israel. Party leaders and parliament members flex muscles on podiums and deliver thundering jeremiads on pulpits in order to inhibit their competitors and impress their constituents and spectators. This is their game; this is their show — especially when one is talking about the opposition. The Israeli opposition groups, one may say, are attempting to make a buck in the world like everybody else. When the majority in Israel seems to have chosen peace, what can the opposition do but flex and thunder? There is, undeniably, a great deal of raving and delirium in the political rhetoric and discourse of the opposition in Israel, stemming from a feeling of impotence and desperation. This is always the case of people who swim against the current and attempt to reverse the irreversible wheel of history.

But, and at another level, there is more to the matter than pure nonsense, sheer rhetoric and mere manoeuvres. What the Israeli opposition is saying these days cannot be

easily and conveniently dismissed as harmless or irrelevant, for it is in fact dangerous. People who make statements such as those cited above are not simple old men or women chattering at leisure over dinner in a home of the elderly, nor are they private citizens caught at a moment of anger in a casual conversation in the comfort of their own homes. No. They are representatives of the Israeli public (or chunks of it), experienced politicians who have been around for quite some time, fundamental players in Israel's political arena, leaders or potential leaders of Israel, and likely ministers or prime ministers. Have we forgotten Begin's, Shamir's and Sharon's "crazy" and "foolish" but disastrous and calamitous invasion of Lebanon in 1982? If given the chance, most leaders of the opposition in Israel would not hesitate one second to invade Gaza and Jericho and subject Palestinians to occupation and slavery, if not throw them into the sea or into neighbouring Arab countries. The point is that one is not talking about a remote possibility of danger, but a very likely one. What happens if the Likud wins the elections?

"At a time when the Israeli government seems to be pathetically too helpless and impotent to fulfill its part of the bargain, the Israeli public is called upon to assert itself. One is under the impression that a comfortable majority of Israelis want peace, want to live and let live. If this is the case, it is time for them to act. Not one single Arab country now objects to peace, and a vast majority of Arabs and Palestinians are for it."

But why talk about what may happen if the Likud takes over when a great deal is already happening? The fanatics, radicals, extremists and hardliners in Israel have succeeded to a great extent not only in slowing down the peace process but in stopping it entirely, especially on the so-called Palestinian-Israeli track which does not seem to be moving in any confident direction.

With respect to the said track, they have (in addition to bringing the process to an almost complete halt) done two things (among the many other obvious things) which are especially worrying.

They have succeeded in polluting and contaminating the whole atmosphere among Palestinians and Israelis, an atmosphere which is supposed to have become a lot cleaner and healthier after Oslo and Washington. The Gaza-Jericho First was not the best agreement one could have come up with, but it was a start — a "first" step. It was a start and a step towards ending decades of suspicion, mistrust and hostility. Aside from its other goals, it had a

crucial psychological dimension: It aimed to break barriers and shatter negative images, misconceptions and stereotypes. But this has not happened, except to a very humble extent. The agreement was supposed to prepare the two peoples psychologically for the great peace to follow. Unfortunately, however, the suspicion, misconception, stereotyping and hostility are still as deeply entrenched in souls and psyches as they have ever been.

The said Israeli groups are to blame because they have been, and still are, (through the statements they make and the positions they take) promoting suspicion and fear. Look at the meetings between Rabin, Peres and other Israeli officials with Palestinian Authority members; they are very lukewarm, very cold, very fake, very artificial and even very ominous. The opposition has a lot to do with it, through the heavy-handed approach they wish the government to adopt towards Gaza and Jericho. How can you be warm and enthusiastic and friendly when others at home, who still see the Palestinian as an enemy and peace as an impossibility, are watching every gesture and move you make?

They have succeeded in inhibiting the Israeli government and crippling its performance on the Palestinian front. Several important steps and decisions need to be taken by the Israeli government to facilitate the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First. But this is not happening. Rabin and Peres, who have taken some courageous decisions before, are now chickening out.

This is, of course, in nobody's interest. The Palestinians have a lot to lose from what seems now exactly like the no-peace no-war situation from which every nation in the Middle East suffered for years. But Israel also has a lot to lose. The Israeli opposition does not care one bit about Palestinian well-being, but what about the well-being of Israel? The point is the opposition does not seem to understand that by ruining the chances of Palestinian-Israeli peace, they are also ruining Israel's own chances. What kind of Israel do they want? What kind of life do they want for the Israeli public? Do they want to take Israel back to the prison of isolation it has locked itself in for years through refusing to recognise Arab and Palestinian rights? Do they think Israel can live happily and joyfully without a good working relationship with its neighbours and without allowing the Palestinians what it allows itself: The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

At a time when the Israeli government seems to be pathetically too helpless and impotent to fulfill its part of the bargain, the Israeli public is called upon to assert itself. One is under the impression that a comfortable majority of Israelis want peace, want to live and let live. If this is the case, it is time for them to act. Not one single Arab country now objects to peace, and a vast majority of Arabs and Palestinians are for it. Is indeed a comfortable majority of Israelis all for peace? We have been assuming this. But what a scary thought it is to find that one is dead wrong in this assumption.

Well, do you Israelis want or do you not want peace with the Palestinians? If yes, something should be done, through the political system you are so proud of, about the fanatics, extremists, hardliners who seem to be thriving among you.

U.S.-British campaign against Iraq includes suppression of facts

'Resolution 986 allowing Baghdad to sell limited amounts of oil places Iraq's major natural resources under U.N. management'

By Michael Jansen
NICOSIA — Iraq no longer expects an early lifting of sanctions imposed by the U.N. in 1990 after the invasion of Kuwait. An authoritative Iraqi source said that Baghdad now saw "no possibility of movement on sanctions before the U.S. elections" in November 1996.

Bağdad had been hopeful that a date would be set in May, during the council's routine review, for an end to sanctions and to the ban on oil exports once Rolf Ekeus, head of the commission disarming Iraq, presented his report covering the first six months of U.N. monitoring procedures. The Iraqi ambassador to the U.N., Nizar Hamadoun, claimed that "90 per cent of the information" demanded by the commission had been provided. Thus, Iraqi officials had hoped that Baghdad would be given a "clean bill of health" by Mr. Ekeus.

But this did not happen.

Mr. Ekeus privately circulated his report in the council late on April 10. Certain sections of that report were leaked to Western news agencies and correspondents.

According to their reports, Mr. Ekeus stated that Iraq had still not accounted for 17 tonnes to a "complex growth" medium used for growing bacteria and viruses.

Iraq did not contest the figures but contended that the missing medium had been used for "agricultural and pharmaceutical purposes" not for the development of a germ warfare capability.

What was not leaked to the press, apparently, or at least not reported by most Western media, was the fact that the Ekeus report makes it clear that at least part of the missing medium in question had an "expiry date" and can no longer be an effective substance for cultivating bacterial cultures. This key fact was provided by the head of the Iraqi interest section in the Jordanian embassy in London Zuhair Ibrahim, in an interview with the BBC World Service on April 15th. He presumably had access to the full text of the report.

An Arab scientist consulted by this reporter said that such material would be less effective if past the

monitoring programme due in April. As a result of the campaign and, presumably, direct U.S.-U.K. pressure, Mr. Ekeus raised the issue of the missing 17 tonnes of bacterial and viral culture material.

During his latest visit to Iraq Mr. Ekeus did not run true to form. Although he stated that the U.N.'s intrusive monitoring procedures, put into operation six months ago, were working well, he also raised the issue of the missing material, giving it worldwide publicity and lending credence to the contention that Iraq was not fully cooperating with Mr. Ekeus' commission.

The Iraqis ask, reasonably, why did he not raise this issue earlier? Why did he wait until the moment when his key report was nearly due? Since he had had the documents relating to the purchase of this material many months earlier, Ambassador Ibrahim said that Iraq is now trying to track down the material so it can present its findings to the U.N. commission, thus clearing up the one problem apparently preventing Mr. Ekeus from giving Baghdad the long-sought "clean bill of health" so sanctions might be lifted.

This is a germ warfare loophole which the council has jumped in order further extend sanctions was of masterly manufacture and should be contrasted with another clumsy attempt to show the Iraqis have been violating the terms of Resolution 687 by secretly developing a nuclear weapons capacity.

Again this involved careful media management. "The Sunday Times of London (which also led with the germ warfare story in February), reported it had handed to the U.N. and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) four pages of official Iraqi docu-

ments allegedly showing that Iraq was conducting a new computer-based programme for producing nuclear arms. These documents were said to have been provided by a defecting Iraqi nuclear scientist, Dr. K. A. Hamza, who allegedly vanished in Athens on February 27 after sending the documents to the newspaper.

It is interesting that, according to Dr. David Kyd, spokesman of the IAEA, the Sunday Times did not hand them over to the agency until a "week" or so before the paper ran the story. Then, before the agency could comment, ran the story on April 9, the day before Mr. Ekeus was due to present his monitoring report to the council.

Acknowledging that the Sunday Times' publication of the "Hamza allegations" if the agency had any evidence that Iraq is still developing nuclear weapons, Dr. Kyd said: "No, we certainly do not have such evidence, but of course it is incumbent on us to follow up anything gives a hint that that might be the case."

Of the IAEA's capabilities, he asserted that the IAEA had "a permanent presence in Iraq in terms of an inspection ability which is very, very intrusive... we have quite exceptional powers in Iraq which are not given to us in normal circumstances."

Dr. Kyd stated that the agency had received copies of the documents and had "taken a look at them. But they are rather insubstantial basis on which to try to pursue an investigation" although the agency found itself "to a degree" more concerned that Iraq could be engaged in a covert programme.

We have certainly taken up the allegations with the Iraqis at a very high level indeed." The IAEA's own

report to the council, he said, would await Iraq's reaction and on-the-spot investigation.

Following Dr. Kyd's statements, the IAEA official in charge of the monitoring team in Iraq, Dr. R. Ziffero, said that after careful investigation the agency had concluded that the documents had been forged. And not very cleverly because the forgers had misspelled place names in Iraq and did not seem to know very much about how to build a bomb. This would suggest that the forgers would seem to be Westerners rather than members of the Iraqi opposition who would not, one would hope, misspell place names in their own country.

These two tactical moves in the campaign to preserve sanctions were meant to secure the renewal of sanctions and compel Iraq to accept the Security Council resolution, proposed by Argentina, at the instigation of the U.S. and U.K., which would allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil within 180 days (or \$1 billion within 90 days), in order to purchase desperately needed medical supplies and food for the Iraqi populace suffering severe deprivation under the stringent sanctions regime.

Although the arrangement would be renewable every 90 days, if approved by the Secretary General (who has followed the U.S. line on Iraq), Iraq would have to set aside 30 per cent of the proceeds to put into a war reparations fund pay the costs of U.N. operations in Iraq and set aside about \$150 million for the 2.2 million Kurds in the Western protected "safe haven" in the north. The remainder, about \$500 million, would be used by the U.N. to purchase food and medical supplies for the 16 million Iraqi civilians in the rest of the country. Before

the U.S. strategic objective remains the continuation of sanctions. By raising these accusations about possible Iraqi violations of Resolution 687 and placing on offer this new "better" deal on oil exports, Washington wants to keep in line the opponents of sanctions when the council reconvenes in mid-May. What is certain is that Washington and London are now resorting to more and more desperate measures — falsification and forgery — to keep the sanctions regime going.



Weekender

A pioneering way to convey Arab realities to the west

Five Arab authors' books translated into English

By Sana Atiyeh

IMAN — When novelist and professor of Arabic literature and women's studies, Dr. Fadia Faqir was approached by British publishers to translate her five novels into English, she said, "I will do something that will help change that."

"These novels give insight to the private thoughts, the literature and the voices of Arab women," Dr. Faqir explained. "We are sick of being misrepresented as locally being second class citizens by Western academics, journalists and thinkers. We are simply not what the West thinks we are."

She cited an example of a chapter by a British journalist in a book about Arab women. The chapter is entitled "Women in Jordan" based on interviews with only three women in positions of power "as if that's what women in Jordan are all about."

Dr. Faqir consulted various Arab writers, thinkers and friends before she selected the five titles, took another six months to find the right translators, two of whom studied Arab women, and worked with a comprehensive team, including the authors, to produce the series of English.

"The lack of good translators from Arabic into another language is partly responsible for the way we are portrayed in the West," said Dr. Faqir, who wrote her novel, *Nisanit*, in English in 1988.

"We hope we have succeeded in preserving the spirit of the text," she said in an interview with the *Jordan Times*. "Any text loses something in translation, but yet it gains something else when you remove it from its original language and place it into another culture."

These novelists in particular, she added, have tried to free themselves from the classical Arabic language, and therefore, when translated, have challenged the preconceptions of Arab and Muslim women.

Ms. Barakat's novel, *Nisanit*, about a woman in love with a Palestinian fighter who loses his sanity under the brutality of his Israeli torturer, was published and sold out in Britain and the U.S. Her second novel, *Pillars Of Salt*, based on the history of Jordan, will be published this year by Quartet Books in England. She is



Dr. Fadia Al Faqir

currently working on her third novel, *The Black Iris Crossing*.

The Novels

The Stone Of Laughter, by Hoda Barakat, is centred around a bisexual character, Khalil, struggling in his day-to-day life in war-torn Beirut and trying to maintain order in his mind and home while his country is committing suicide.

Ms. Barakat's novel "dismisses every ideology and rhetoric and tries to say no to heroism through this character," Dr. Faqir said. "But he could not resist what is happening around him. It's a very tragic story."

Liana Badr's *The Eye Of The Mirror* is also anti-heroic in the traditional sense of the word, and

tells about a "different type of victory of women trying to keep a destroyed refugee camp together," as Dr. Faqir put it. This novel was written after seven years of research into the massacre of Palestinians in Tal Al Za'tar refugee camp in the beginning of the Lebanese civil war.

Mrs. Barakat has documented the tragedy of the camp through a female character, Aisha, whose family and friends are torn apart by tragic reasons beyond her control, and who tries to start a family of her own. "She was writing about the war of women" in a war started and carried out by men, said Dr. Faqir. "And the clear message in this story is that people do not forget and that we must learn from a history which cannot be wiped out."

Alia Mamdouh's *Mothballs* takes us to Baghdad in the 1940s and 50s seen through the eyes of one girl who talks about the history of her simple family. "The writer tries to preserve everything about Baghdad, its voices, its architecture, its streets," said the series editor. "Written in the 70s she predicted all the tyranny and oppression we see in Iraq today."

In the *Homeland*, Hamida Na'na bases her story and character, Nadia, on Laila Khaldi, the well-known Palestinian guerrilla fighter of the 1970s. Nadia, disillusioned, moves to the West where she gets romantically involved with a lapsed Marxist revolutionary in Paris. Though he renounces his early idealism, she finds she cannot



A new
and
exciting
series
of novels



ARAB WOMEN WRITERS



The
Golden
Chariot



Garnet
The
Stone of
Laughter

do the same because her idealism concerns her homeland.

"We see another clash between two cultures, two ways of seeing armed struggle and two ways of thinking," said Dr. Faqir.

Salwa Bakr's *The Gol-*

den Chariot takes us to a women's prison in Egypt and looks at the story of each prisoner and how she ended up there. Seen through the eyes of Amira, "who takes us along in an amusing journey of thinking," said Dr. Faqir. "Her angles as the writer changes her tactics," the story shows the political, economic and social reasons behind their imprisonment. Ms. Bakr's works have been previously translated into English, Germany and Dutch.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Dead Sea spice: Down at the Dead Sea Hotel and Spa last week, a group of former prime ministers, academics, newspaper chief editors and political experts gathered for an agenda of closed sessions to discuss the results of a poll on Jordanian-Palestinian relations released in early February by the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies. The discussion was centred on the poll's revelation that the Palestinian issue is a domestic issue. But that it was a closed session seemed to spark more interest to outsiders. At a luncheon following the morning session, House Deputy and former Prime Minister Toher Mosri was called away from the table by a journalist telephoning from Amman. "Excellency, we are hearing rumours up here in Amman of a secret meeting between Jordanians, Palestinians and Israeli delegation," the journalist said. Mosri responded exploding the format and topic of the agenda and added that "No, there were no Israelis involved." Returning to his seat laughing, Mosri reported the telephone

conversation to the group. Ten minutes later another participant was called by the same journalist. As he stood to head for the telephone, Mosri shouted out to him, "Make sure you tell him that Ahmad Obeidat is with us!" -- hoping to dispel rumours that Israelis were among the discussion group. At that Obeidat, a former prime minister and senator who resigned from his seat in the Upper House over his objections to the peace treaty with Israel, broke from his more stoic demeanour and laughed heartily.

Normalising teeth: A consequence of laughing is that it reveals one's teeth, provided one still has teeth. For some Israelis, dental care in Jordan has become another attraction, according to one Israeli daily. *Yediot Aharanot* reported that hundreds of Israelis are tagging on a visit to Jordanian dentists as part of their travels to the Kingdom. The bottom line is that charges for services here are nearly three times

less expensive. Tour guides are said to have started asking travel agents to provide additional time on Israeli tourists' itineraries to get in a little dental work. But one report, said that the Israeli dentistry association has warned tourists to "be wary of hygiene conditions" in Jordan. Let's see what the Jordanian Dentists Association will have to say to that.

Uptown ban on downtown sins? It wasn't exactly just hygiene conditions, or more specifically, the poor state of them, that forced the Ministry of Tourism to shut down the Riviera Hotel in downtown Amman. The official news media reported that the hotel's licence had been withdrawn because of the establishment's "service and low level of hygiene." But according to a source close to the case, the hotel had repeatedly violated Ministry of Tourism regulations, some of which have little tolerance for vice.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Much 'ado' about rumours, teeth and 'hygiene'

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Australian film industry faces profound change

By Jennifer Stafford
THE NEXT three years will be a time of rapid and profound change for the Australian Film Commission (AFC) and the Australian film industry generally.

The Creative Nation statement was released in October 1994 and reaffirms the government's support for the film industry.

This statement is a major milestone in Australia's cultural policy and directs additional funds of \$5.2 million to the AFC for expanding its developmental work on creative multimedia. Many consider that the future of new technologies is going to be the greatest single change in the way we communicate the invention of the printing press. Certainly it is going to have an impact on the way in which the industry operates.

Future challenge
The future challenge for the AFC is how to maintain and expand opportunities for expressions of the diversity of Australian culture in an environment

of rapid technological change with a multiplicity of distribution outlets. The AFC will also be exploring the application of new technologies in collecting and disseminating information about the scope and performance of the film industry.

A major part of the way in which the AFC sees its role over the next three years is in shaping and promoting the diversity of culture that comprises the Australian identity. The AFC has a role to play in influencing the kinds of films and television programmes that are produced and the development of commercial television as having been a catalyst in the development of our domestic film industry and they are seeking similar quota requirements for Pay TV.

New generation
With international film financing geared to the talents of recognised directors and the richness of cinema, television and software being dependent on personal visions, the AFC seeks to develop skills, talent and vision in support of a new genera-

tion of internationally recognised Australian directors and programme makers.

Australian films and television programmes have a major influence on the way in which Australians think about themselves and the way in which we are perceived around the world. The AFC pursues a broad range of promotional strategies both internationally and in Australia which are designed to stimulate distribution of Australian productions, expand markets and assist in raising the profile of Australians and their culture.

The AFC's international promotion work covers special events such as film and television seasons through which it aims to stimulate public interest and encourage broadcasters and distributors to acquire more Australian programmes.

Cinema Australasia at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris in 1991 and promo-

tions in Korea in 1992 which the AFC linked to the Asia-Pacific Film Festival and the Australia Abroad Council's promotion, are examples of AFC events which have been successful in raising the international profile of the Australian film industry.

The AFC's promotion of creative multimedia over the next three years will enhance the growing awareness of the range and sophistication of Australian culture. There is now an audience for Australian productions, expand markets and assist in raising the profile of Australians and their culture.

The AFC's international promotion work covers special events such as film and television seasons through which it aims to stimulate public interest and encourage broadcasters and distributors to acquire more Australian programmes. Cinema Australasia at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris in 1991 and promo-

ting a wider appreciation of the work of indigenous Australians by supporting its distribution and exhibition. In January 1995, the AFC launched its Indigenous Drama Initiative which offers funding to indigenous filmmakers to make dramatic films which will be screened by the Special Broadcasting Service early in 1996.

The AFC administers the Official Co-Production Programme which provides a modest number of Australian producers with a way of combining the creative and financial benefits available in Australia and abroad.

In addition to the existing treaty with the U.K., a new treaty was negotiated with Italy in 1993 and negotiations are well advanced with Germany. Negotiations with France are centred around upgrading the current arrangements to treaty status. Co-production arrangements are also in place with New Zealand and Canada. — Insight.

Virtuality

By Jean-Claude Elias

Computer users take a malicious pleasure at impressing common mortals with their jargon. By doing so they may not be very different from doctors except that with the tremendous speed of change and new terms being added to the IT (information technology) vocabulary almost on a daily basis, they have a much wider scope to practise their game.

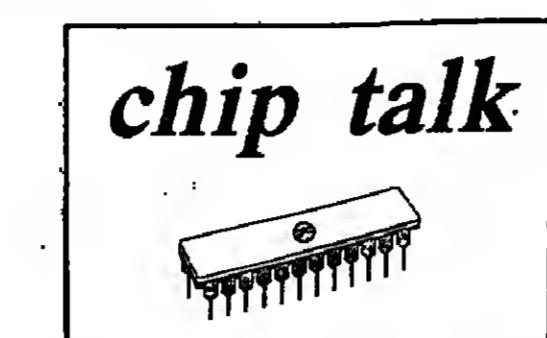
The concept of "virtuality" in the world of IT has been around for a while but it's recently taken a new, frightening meaning with the widespread usage of computer-generated images.

Saying that a PC (personal computer) uses virtual memory doesn't refer to any supernatural or magic device. It simply means that the machine doesn't have enough regular memory to accomplish a given task and instead is using extra available disk space for that purpose. A virtual disk is the opposite. Part of the regular memory is used to do the processing, instead of the physical disk. Nothing to worry about so far — virtuality is under control.

Computer generated art, still pictures and animated graphics more particularly have added a new dimension to the concept. Images that do not correspond anymore to anything real are invading networks, magazines, advertisements and so forth. Actual photographs are being touched up, modified and altered in such a drastic manner that they tell a story completely different from the original work. Graphic animation software exists that allows the creation of totally imaginary people, animals or objects, in full 3-dimensions. These can be animated with near perfection.

Some will argue that this is not new and that artists have always played tricks with images, motion pictures and photographs. Physical "cut and paste" has existed long before this facility was made available through computer software. After all animated cartoons are also virtual images that have been around for a few decades now.

The difference is that computer produced virtuality



looks very much "real." It can deceive the most experienced eyes. The perfection of the shapes, the volumes, the colours, the light, the shadows and before all the movement, have nothing to do with Mickey Mouse or Bugs Bunny. When they produce films like *The Jungle Book* or *The Little Mermaid*, Walt Disney studios do not want nor expect the viewer to take the cartoons for reality. Computer animated or manipulated graphics however are so dangerously true that their originators may have undeclared intentions.

Last year, by pure coincidence, two famous American weekly magazines published, simultaneously, an issue with the same cover: A photograph of football star O.J. Simpson distributed to them by a third party. One of the magazines however decided to modify the photo in a way to make Simpson's face "blacker." The trick was done using a computer process. Only the comparison between both covers made readers realize that one of them had been touched up — causing an obvious embarrassment to the guilty magazine.

An interesting essay by Rod Usher (Time, March 27, 95) tackled the worrisome subject of virtual pornography. With the help of a PC, an image scanner and a painting software, a pedophile had used a combination of legally published photographs to fabricate virtual, but incredibly "real-looking" images of children that he transmitted over the telephone lines to other computers. No legal action could be taken against him since the images he obtained did not correspond to any real situation nor living children. There are no laws to cover such cases yet.

Usher adds that computer-generated violence is even more horrible than the actual thing for "there can never be a real cry, a real tear" in it.

The French Cultural Centre in Amman last year hosted a lecture on "Virtual Images." Viewers were treated to a short promotional film by Renault, the car-maker, showing a new model driving on a pleasant country road. Hadn't the lecturer revealed that the film was entirely virtual and computer-produced, everybody, including the writer of this column who attended the lecture, would have taken the car, the road and the scenery for reality.

Publishers are becoming very cautious with the graphic material they have to handle. A new attitude, a new approach is required but has not yet been defined. Lawmakers have some arduous homework to do.



Graphic by J.C. Elias

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

TANTALIZING FACTS

- ★ It is not recorded in the Bible that Jesus was ever sick.
- ★ Fish has the same number of scales during their entire lifetime.
- ★ The first appendectomy was performed in 1736.
- ★ German silver does not contain any silver at all.
- ★ The eyes of an elephant are only slightly larger than the eyes of a man.
- ★ The common house fly does not breed in Alaska.
- ★ All snake eggs are white or cream coloured.
- ★ In 1800, only about 7 per cent of the United States population were church members.
- ★ Pigs were used in ancient Egypt to tread seeds into the ground and thresh grain.
- ★ The average life of a spider is only one year.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- He has no money. *Laysa ma'sho fuloos.*
- I had 10 dinars only. *Ma'e ashtrato danameer fuqat.*
- I've not enough time to see you. *Laysa iħalli waqtan kafe'yan le-arak.*
- All this is for you. *Kollo haddha min ajjek.*
- One and two are three. *Waħid wa ethniex yusawi thalath.*
- We want oranges for one dinar and a half. *Noreeb bartsqalun bedinar wa nisf.*
- She had a small house and a big garden. *Tamlik manzilu saġħira wa l-kadekkien kabirah.*
- The book you search for is in the drawer. *Al-kitab allathu tab'hathu anhu fid-durju.*
- I want a ticket for Egypt. *Oreedo taħbi karataνi cl-Miṣr.*
- She was here with me yesterday. *Kanat ma'se homs bil-ams.*

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

TV JOKES

- ★ HE: "Is this show clean?"
- "SHE: "Sure. It's a soap opera."
- ★ That TV star is so rich. He's got four Mercedes — on each direction!
- ★ It's a quiz show — only in reverse: If you answer the question — you're a certified doper!
- ★ That TV show had a happy ending. Everything was glad when it was over.
- ★ There's one thing you can say about some crime shows: It's a crime they stay on the air!

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the "key of the Mediterranean?"

2. What is a horologer?
3. What is pin-money?
4. What are gewgaws?
5. What is capital punishment?
6. What is a Sirdar?
7. What is Reichstag?
8. What does "asclepius" stand for?

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆



PICTURE & COMMENT

Kevin Carter, 34, a South African photographer won the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for this picture which he took while touring Sudan. The picture shows a Sudanese child facing inevitable death due to starvation. A vulture in the background could be seen prepared to swoop down this poor little creature!

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

PUZZLES

HEADS ALIKE

Although the "heads" of these mammals are the same on paper it doesn't necessarily follow that they are alike. Very much the reverse, in fact. Can you fill in the missing letters and reveal them in their entirety?

- The missing letters are indicated by dots.
- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. COY. | COY.. |
| 2. JACK.. | JACK.. |
| 3. KO... BEAR | KO... BEAR |
| 4. MAN... | MAN... |
| 5. MON... | MON... |
| 6. PAN... | PAN... |
| 7. POR... | POR... |
| 8. WAL... | WAL... |

New club extraordinaire

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Forget the Royal Automobile Club, forget the Orthodox Club, forget all other clubs in Amman. Today, this column brings you the exclusive premier of the unveiling of Amman's latest inclusive club.

With an eye on making all car drivers automatic members of this club, it was named the Left Lane Drivers' Club. A typical member of this club is the sort of driver that both you and I come across everyday. You probably know the sort of driver I'm talking about. The sort who, when on the road, drives in the left lane and just stays there while driving at a speed far more appropriate for the right-hand lane of the road.

All this of course means that we, drivers and all, are not fully aware, if not totally ignorant to the fact, that in this country the left lane is reserved for fast moving traffic while all other lanes are for slower moving traffic.

But, and so typical of us, we have over the years made up our own rules as far as driving on the left side of a road is concerned. Hence the Left Lane Drivers' Club. But again, if you look harder at this situation, you discover, as was rightly pointed out to me, that a great number of drivers choose to sit on the fence and drive in the middle until, either willingly or unwillingly, they make or are forced to make a decision.

One of the funnier sides to this where-to-drive

dilemma is that these slow moving drivers on the left appear, at most times, convinced that they have the right to drive where they are driving and at the speed at which they are driving. But because this presumed right to do things and to behave in certain ways manifests itself so openly when we drive be it where and how we drive or where and how we choose to park, an explanation is called for.

Beneath all this talk of priorities in driving lies the deeper issue of citizenship and that of the genuine love of others. In most cases, those at the higher end of the social scale think that they can park in the middle of a street because they happen to believe it is a given privilege that comes with their status. So they do it out of selfishness and total lack of respect for the needs of others. Meanwhile, those at the lower end of the social scale do it out of carelessness and ignorance.

It is also true that both parties do it out of need, their need. But what about the needs of other drivers? What about the needs of pedestrians when these drivers park on the pavements? Whatever happened to the utopian vision of community spirit and care for others?

What it all comes down to is that all of us can have our membership in the Left Lane Drivers' Club annulled when and only when, we start behaving like the responsible citizens we aspire to be and to be treated as such.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 20

1:00 Dennis The Menace

1:30 My Secret Identity

2:00 N.B.A.

3:00 Survival

3:50 Blue Heelers

4:30 French Programme

7:30 The Album Show

8:00 Blue Revolution

9:15 E.N.G.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Good Fight

12:00 The Burning Shores

Friday, April 21

1:00 Lift Off

1:30 Why Didn't I Think Of That?

2:00 A Year In The Life

2:45 Feature Film — Mob Boss

4:15 White Fang

4:45 French Programme

7:30 African Skies

8:00 Documentary — QED

8:30 You Bet Your Life

9:10 The Law And Harry McGraw

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary — Mimi Dragons

Hong Kong

11:30 Feature Film — The Golden Rod

Saturday, April 22

2:00 Dog City

2:30 Harry And The Hendersons

3:00 Witness To Survival

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:00 Gillette World Sport

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — The Nature Of Things

8:30 Desmond's

9:10 Jack The Ripper

10:00 News In English

10:20 Strauss Dynasty

10:20 Feature Film — Lethal Exposure

Starring: Ally Sheedy & Francois Gendron

Tuesday, April 25

2:00 Captain Planet

2:30 I Witness Video

3:30 Road To Avonlea

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 Documentary — The Nature Of Things

8:30 Desmond's

9:10 Jack The Ripper

10:00 News In English

10:20 Seaforth

12:00 Lonesome Dove

Wednesday, April 26

2:00 The Flintstones

2:30 Hot Shots

3:00 Beakman's World

3:30 Movies, Games And Videos

4:00 Amazing Stories

4:30 Tarzan

5:00 French Programme

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:00 The Marvellous Machine

8:30 GP

9:15 Berlin Break

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prism

10:40 Dandelion Dead

12:00 Keeping Up Appearances

Gulf War as seen from down under

The Gulf War: Critical Perspectives
Edited by Michael McKinley
Published by Allen & Unwin, pp. 209, \$24.95,
Canberra, 1994

This book (produced by the Department of International Relations at the Australian National University, Canberra) is a compilation of articles which critically examine the 1991 Gulf War from an Australian perspective. Its contributors are experts in defence studies, political science, foreign affairs, international relations and strategic studies. The book is divided into an introduction and seven chapters.

In the first chapter *Washed In The Sands Of Grey: The Persian Gulf In Context*, David Campbell examines the setting of the conflict and the "multifaceted" international/intercorporate relations between Iraq and the West. After presenting a brief history of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border demarcation, he traces the solid American backing to Iraq. This he claims ensued after the secret visit to Baghdad by the then-CIA director, William Casey, when the U.S. effectively permitted third regional parties "to transfer American military and hardware to Iraq" (p. 11). According to Campbell, between 1985-90, nearly 800 American dual use technology export licences to Iraq worth \$1.5 billion were issued, and that between 1982-89, German corporations alone exported more than \$600 million worth of technology much of which is of "obvious military application" (p. 19). In a similar vein, the National Security Directive 26, signed by George Bush, helped maintain the momentum of intensive American bias towards Iraq despite "substantial concerns about the way Iraq had used previous credits and the ends they were serving." (p. 15).

While neither excusing one party nor incriminating the other, Campbell also seeks to deconstruct the one-dimensional narrative of the official story of the war. Accordingly, with the caveat that the events preceding Aug. 2, 1990 neither "condone" or "justify" Iraq's military occupation of Kuwait, he attempts to "contextualise" the invasion (p. 26). But when commenting on a CIA released statement on Oct. 30, 1990 in response to the alleged meeting between the Kuwaiti director-general of state security and CIA director on Nov. 14, 1989, Campbell opines that "it is possible to interpret later events as suggesting the plausibility of a U.S.-inspired plan to provoke Iraq" (p. 30). Campbell is also critical of American diplomacy. While he concedes that his purpose is not to say that a diplomatic solution was possible, but rather "render problematic the conviction that it was impossible," he asks why the Americans did not earnestly support "those who in actuality assiduously explored non-military solutions prior to August 1990?" And why was the "conflict after August 1990 not amenable to the virtues of negotiation and arbitration?" (pp. 32, 35).

In the second chapter *Quantum Leaping: The Gulf Debate In Australia and Canada*, Professor Kim Nossal highlights the national and cross-national debates in Australia and Canada with regard to the 1991 Gulf War, which he characterises as essentially

ethnocentric. Professor Nossal observes that in both countries history was deployed as the "critical part of policy debate" as parliamentarians used historical examples to advance their arguments. However, according to Professor Nossal, history was not merely a "rhetorical device to shore up postures," but rather a "deep-seated part of the decision-making process" (p. 50).

According to Professor Nossal, in both countries public discourse was similar. Australians and Canadians alike shouted the cross-Atlantic Gulf War slogans: (*No Blood For Oil*), (*Hell no, we won't die for Texaco*), and John Lennon's refrain (*Give peace a chance*), etc. As Professor Nossal shows, both prime ministers, Hawke and Mulroney, were popularly accused of joining the war "for a toady desire to please George Bush." Moreover, he demonstrates that the press in both countries occasionally portrayed them as "lap dogs, puppy dogs, or presidential poodles" (p. 56). (Even a year later, as Professor Nossal points, Mulroney was once described by the Canadian *Toronto Star* in March 1992 as "a Yankee jockey grovelling at his master's feet.") And during 1990 Bush's dog was once jokingly advised by Canadian journalists to run fast for fear that Mulroney would retrieve a frisbee thrown by the president first.) (pp. 55, 56).

In the third chapter *The Gulf War And Australian Political Culture*, Professor James Richardson examines the political culture which dictated that Australia should side with the United States without due national deliberations. According to Professor Richardson, this largely stems from Australia's national security sub-culture and its constant need of Western patrons. In this context Australia's headlong rush into participating in America's war is seen as an "abdication of independent judgement" and a "rueful triumph for golf course diplomacy," as opposed to a national choice consistent with clearly-set national characteristics and autonomous objectives. This conclusion is further supported by Australia's failure to consult with ASEAN governments, which in turn has "reinforced its image in the region (that Australia is) still essentially Western in its orientation, identifying with Europe and the U.S. not with regional concerns" (p. 81).

Professor Richardson also coincides with Richard Falk's observation of the "continuing racist disposition" in Western political culture" which is "especially quick to associate the evil Other with non-white, non-Christian peoples" (p. 93).

In the fourth chapter *Economic Sanctions And Military Solutions: Australia, Middle Power Internationalism And The Costs Of Instant Gratifications*, Richard Leaver suggests that in the case of Iraq, economic sanctions could have produced more fruitful results. He also contends that the case for sanctions was badly "undersold" to the world and Western public opinion. However, he admits that due to the "private context within which allied strategy was hatched... popular backing for sanctions could never have halted the metamorphosis of Desert Shield into Desert Storm" (p. 99). According to Leaver, proponents of sanctions believed that hostilities could develop into an uncontrollable regional conflagration which may even "pit the Islamic and Judo-Christian traditions against each other

through the coming decades," and that a military conflict would bring a high number of Western casualties (p. 101). However, Leaver dismisses the first apocalyptic argument on the grounds that regardless of its "empirical validity," it "imposes a powerful kind of reductionist logic upon strategic thinking" (p. 102). Further he identifies four political objectives which could be accommodated under the "generous phraseology" of Resolution 678, and states that "by standing still, the case for sanctions was gradually outflanked by the development of the conflict and politically marginalised well before the shooting started" (p. 104).

In contending the testimony of the then Director of the CIA, William Webster, to the Armed Services Committee of the House of Representatives in December 1990, Leaver points that arguments for the case of war failed to "conceptualise how economic sanctions might feed into domestic and political process" (p. 105). Instead, he points that 98 per cent of Iraq's exports are oil and that the expected 50 per cent fall in Iraq's GDP is, contrary to Webster's analysis, likely to pose significant hardship for the Iraqi military, which in turn is "expected to catalyse a notable decline in military competence through the medium-term" (p. 107). Leaver also adds that there was little chance of obviating Iraq's external sensitivity by adopting economic diversification and contrasts the Iraqi case with Rhodesia. Given the fact that the prospect for sanctions-busting was poor, he carries on to argue that in the long-term, sanctions should exert "debilitating political effects," notwithstanding that "sanctions were unlikely to liberate Kuwait quickly" (p. 109).

In discussing the prospects for a new regional system, mainly through a unipolar one led by the U.S., with minimal flow of arms and weapons of mass destruction, Leaver argues that the application of economic sanctions would have accelerated the development of "techniques of mutual vigilance, and catalysed the will to self-restraint among suppliers" (p. 115). However, oblivious of Turkey's favourable position during and after the war, Leaver declares that the "absolute" winners in this unipolar security system are Israel and Iran, whose capabilities with comparison with the status quo ante were substantially enhanced (p. 116). But nevertheless, Leaver also dismisses George Bush's New World Order as nothing more than a phrase of tactical importance in the "game of wartime importance" (p. 117).

In the fifth chapter *The Gulf War And Australian Defence: Aberration or "Defining Event"*, Graeme Cheeseman examines the domestic implications for Australia's decision to join the multinational alliance against Baghdad. When considering the "reasons for going over there," he states that the government's moral argument "was both overdrawn and hypocritical" (p. 132). But he also admits that faced with the uncertainties of the post-cold war era, Australia's military and strategic planners reached out to their Western security blanket, and that Australia remains "physically and psychologically" dependent on the United States.

In the sixth chapter *The Gulf War: Australia's Role And Asia-Pacific Responses*, Mohan Malik

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assesses the regional reactions to the war in general and the repercussions of Australia's enthusiastic participation in the war against Iraq. He observes "remarkable" similarities in the Indonesian and Malaysian initial reaction to the Gulf Crisis: both were critical of the U.S. China and India also initially did not look favourably on Australia's decision to join the war. According to Malik, even when Indonesia, Malaysia, India and China supported U.N. resolutions for "purely opportunistic and selfish reasons," they advocated restraint (p. 154). Malik observes that at all stages of the conflict there was no evidence of consultation between Australia and South Asia countries, though Japan was the only Asian country with which Australia had serious consultations. But as Malik also shows, Australia was not completely isolated as it also received wholehearted support from regional powers like Sri Lanka, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand, the Philippines, South Korea and Japan (p. 165).

As Malik notices, in many Asia-Pacific countries apprehension was expressed about Pax Americana in a unipolar world. Additionally, demands for the "democratisation" of the U.N. were made, mainly through buttressing the role of the General Assembly in the face of the Security Council which is now freed from the deadlock which characterised it during the cold war.

In the seventh chapter *The 'Bitterness Of Being Right': Reflections On Australian Alliance Orthodoxy, The Gulf War, And The New World Order*, Michael McKinley concludes the book by arguing that the Gulf War was an extension of cold war politics in a post-cold war era. This he claims resulted from the suddenness of the collapse of the Soviet empire, which left American strategic planners vacuous. McKinley also argues against Australia's alliance with the U.S. during the war and that, generally speaking, alliances are instruments of war-proneness. He also observes that the New World Order "reflects an essentially imperial vision," and that unless something serious is done to undo the many outstanding injustices the term New World Order "will be bankrupt, just as the 'same old days'" (p. 187).

McKinley also views it as "hypocrisy" the selective denunciation of Iraq, "while at the same time tolerating injustices in Israel, Syria and Turkey" (p. 193). However, he views the stubbing by U.S.-led military build-up of Arab diplomatic initiative to solve the conflict peacefully as an unnecessary "gratuitous insult." Further, he finds it "difficult to be convinced that... the Arab states were inferior diplomatically" (p. 194). McKinley, however, does not share the belief that the Gulf victory was great victory. Instead he sees it as "victory" against an "isolated, demoralised, starving, badly led, shell-shocked, strategically bankrupt and tactically bereft rabble" (p. 196).

As is evident, this book offers a discourse on the tragic Gulf War, where issues are tackled in a true academic spirit. It also undoubtedly gives insights into internal and external implications of Australia's instantaneous decision to join the Western camp.

Lia'ay Minwar Al Rimawi

A challenge to understand the faith

The Death Of The Messiah

By Raymond E. Brown
Doubleday, New York

Last year Doubleday published the 1,608 page work *The Death Of The Messiah*. It is a stunning achievement of scholarship and objectivity. In a way it is a survey and critique of literature on the passion and death of Jesus for the last 2000 years (daunting). The method of approach in Brown's study of the passion and death is contemporary critico-historical. This means that the latest scientific tools and methods are used if it is helpful in elucidating a text — textual criticism, literary criticism, archaeological evidence, etc. Brown shows a great freedom and deep belief in his work.

It is not possible in a brief review to give a detailed analysis of this extensive and thorough work, so I would like to present here what I think are major features concerning the work:

1. For anyone who finishes this book he would have a deep and broad understanding of the methods used in Biblical scholarship today. That in itself would be a very great gain. He would know how passages, paragraphs, sentences and words are analysed in very great detail to come to an understanding of what is their meaning.

2. The very first gospel, *Mark*, was written some 30 years after the death of Jesus. The gospel of *John*, maybe some 40 years after the gospel of *Mark*. The early Christian communities had to contend with different forces as their faith developed and deepened. Brown illustrates throughout his book the forces upon these communities, and therefore upon the writers of the different gospels who were writing for these communities. The passion narratives demonstrate that the Christians were trying to show that they were correct in their belief in the face of their enemies and that their enemies were wrong. But most of all, according to Brown, the passion narratives are an expression of the deep faith of the gospel writers and their communities in Jesus who suffered and died, the one through whom God is breaking through.

3. Since the gospels were written some years after the events described in them, the question of the source material of the different gospels is important. For the passion narrative Brown throughout the work gives a detailed presentation of the agreed upon sources and the possible sources. The oral tradition is a very important source, and in the book how this source functioned becomes clear. There was a basic memory of the passion within the different communities; this was put into words through the influence of such factors as the Old Testament, needs of the

community and theology of the specific author.

The first followers of Jesus were pious Jews. Their religious sensitivities were shaped by their religious tradition. Therefore scripture was very important in interpreting who and what Jesus did. The influence of scripture is very evident in the composition of the passion narratives.

Some communities were facing martyrdom; some passages of the passion narratives would have been structured as a direct encouragement to these good believers.

The different writers of the gospels had different theologies — i.e. they interpreted the meaning of the passion and death of Jesus in different ways. For example, *Mark* has Jesus abandoned and alone in a way which John could not accept. John's theology is that Jesus is in charge even of his own death. These different insights give us a rich variety with regard to the presentation of the death of Jesus, but they also give rise to different details in the prestation of the story, and some details that may not be compatible. The overall story is based on historical fact — the passion and death of Jesus — but many details are not easily historically proven.

4. On page 1092 Brown begins a discussion that is very pertinent to this part of the world, the topic that Jesus himself did not die but that someone else substituted for him. Ideas on substitution were

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floating around in the 2nd century in connection with gnostic theology. It seems that such heterodox thinking originating in Syria was influential on Arabian Christianity. For the very first Christians the sources indicate that there was no doubt that Jesus died.

For many Christians this book would be very difficult to read, not merely because it is very scholarly and detailed, but because not being used to reflect upon their faith they would find some of the discussions threatening. But an assumption throughout the book is helpful, that Jesus is not an idea but a person and we as believers have the challenge to put into words as best we can the meaning of Jesus. The gospel writers had a special grace to represent Jesus in a way that would convey the faith in a profound and accurate way. If we do not have the same grace we do have the on-going challenge to understand the faith as best we can in a profoundly changing world. The book of Raymond Brown is an exquisite example of an attempt at this. This book is among the most significant for Christianity published in recent times.

The only wish I have is that Brown will produce a briefer and less detailed edition of this work so that wide ranges of people would be able to enjoy it and gain from it.

Thomas J. Fitzpatrick

A truly great man

Long Walk To Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela

Little, Brown
And Company, London, £20. 1994. 617 pages.

This is a wonderful book about a truly great man, and yet it is not a life that one can easily grasp or appreciate. For what can one make of the life of a man who went to jail when he was 24 years old and left it when he was 71, 10,000 days of imprisonment, and then in two years became the elected president of the country. Or the fact that President Nelson Mandela, a world figure, Nobel Peace Prize winner, spent the first ten years of his life, very happily, in a tiny village in Transkei, at the tip of South Africa, living in a mud-floored hut, without a single article of furniture, clad in a single blanket, draped over the shoulder and pinned at the waist, a herd-boy looking after sheep and calves in the field — what he calls a "country childhood." And yet he describes himself as a "member of a royal household" and at one point had to remind his future son-in-law that he was marrying a "princess".

Naturally, a great many influences have gone into the making of a statesman who is also a modern-day saint, and who, because of his moral stature, stands head and shoulders above the rather shabby array of present-day leaders.

There is his love of nature, a very important element in his make-up. "It is from these days (as a herd-boy) I date my love of the wild, of open spaces,

the simple beauties of nature, the clean line of the horizon. His patriotism and idealism is rooted in that love.

There is his "royal" background because of which he believes that a sense of personal dignity is all-important, and that in freedom struggle the people must first be liberated from a sense of psychological inferiority towards their opponent. In that sense many nominally "free" countries are really not free, like Cyprus (both sides of the island) and almost all Arab countries and even huge Indonesia.

There was the national struggle itself which, especially when, as the elusive "black pimpernel", Mandela was working underground because of which he came into close contact with people of every type and social class and colour so that his human experience cut across the divisions, not only between blacks, coloured and whites, but also those between the many tribes within the black community, thus peculiarly fitting him for his present post of state president.

The characteristic that has marked out Mandela is that he has no, hatred for his former white enemies

and that he is prepared to build a new multi-racial

South Africa based on reconciliation. Not because he

is a Gandhian or a believer in non-violence. As the

first commander-in-chief of the armed wing of the

African National Congress, the MK, or Umkhonto

We Sizwe, the Spear of the Nation, he could not be a

pacifist. But he accepted non-violence as a tactic

when violence would have been self-defeating: "To

make peace with an enemy one must work with that

enemy, and that enemy becomes your partner."

Which is what has happened in South Africa, thanks to the lead given by Mandela. From his experience he reached the conclusion that whites could not be blamed for everything because "all men have a core of decency" and that there was "a middleground between white fears and black hopes" and that "to drive the whites away would devastate the nation."

Through his relations with his partner in the South African "miracle", his white Vice President F.W. De Klerk, who shares much of the credit for the miracle, remained testy down to the time Mandela wrote this document. (Incidentally, the first draft of this document was written in his cell in Robben Island Jail, buried in the garden, discovered and destroyed and then had to be reconstituted in its present form).

It is extremely fortunate for South Africa that Mandela, despite his many years in prison and his age — he is now in his mid-seventies — is so healthy and hearty. Perhaps because of his long years in prison when he led a regular life with physical labour, which he says he enjoyed "using all my muscles" breaking rocks into gravel. In addition, he was always a physical fitness fanatic and at one time in prison was exercising for an hour and a half everyday.

Although this is primarily the story of Mandela's part in the South African freedom struggle (the new South African flag is proudly displayed on the spine of the book) in a work of over 600 pages we inevitably learn a lot about the man himself. Thus, apart from physical exercise he is a fanatic about gardening and at one point on Robben Island he could proudly list the 13 types of vegetables and fruit,

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900 plants in all, which he grew; he enjoyed taking part in the prison's amateur dramatics and particularly mentions his pleasure in playing the part of King Creon in the Antigone of Sophocles, because the heroine was also a rebel; he is also a fan of the film star Sophia Loren; of course he read a great deal and though the prison library was limited it was a serious collection of which he mentions Steinbeck's *Grapes Of Wrath* and the greatest of all novels, Tolstoy's *War And Peace*, to which Mandela returned many times. (His father, he tells us, could not read or write).

It tells us much of the quality of his mind and character when he says that at least his prison years gave him time to think and that as a result of his thinking in prison he hated white people less and the whites' apartheid system more.

He is touchingly loyal to his controversial wife Winnie, from whom he is now separated, after some very murky misbehaviour on her part. But she had stood by him through the darkest days and remained undaunted.

As was he: He never doubted that one day he would leave prison and that his cause would prevail — because it was just. It was this idealism and optimism that kept him going. As he put it in one of his picturesque phrases: "Your spirit can be full even when your stomach is empty." This is a truly splendid book and how can it not be? For it is the story of a great life.

G.H. Jansen

African itch drives victims towards suicide

By Carl Hartman

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — One variety of the tiny white worm causes the disease widely known as "river blindness." Now, after a 25 year campaign to control it, attention is focusing on a forest-dwelling variety that makes some of its victims so itchy they want to die.

Besides the terrible itch, this variety wrinkles and spots the skin and causes other pains and troubles, said Dr. Tore

Godal, who heads a new World Health Organisation (WHO) project to rid Africa of onchocerca volvulus within 10 years.

The World Bank has announced that it is looking for \$100 million for the project. Dr. Godal said the cost could be less than \$1 per victim each year.

An estimated 15 million people live in countries where no effective control programme has been undertaken, including 9 million with the forest variety of the disease.

Dr. Godal said he knew of no actual suicides, but the fact that some of its victims say they are thinking or killing themselves rather than endure the intense discomfort, shows how seriously they take the affliction.

"It's especially hard on the women," Dr. Godal said in an interview. "Skin disfigurement stigmatizes a person — a bigger problem than many people think."

Onchocerca volvulus is a white worm only 1.5

centimetres long. Its eggs are carried by blood-sucking black flies.

The "savanna" strain of

the disease, onchocerciasis, mostly hits Africans over 40. It is sometimes called "river blindness" because the black fly breeds in swiftly flowing rivers.

Sprays from aircraft hold down the black fly, and once a year patients

get a drug called Ivermectin, which kills newly hatched worms. Merck,

the company that makes the drug, gives it without charge, but the project is still expected to cost \$500 million by the time it is completed in 2002.

The "forest strain" does not blind but brings on the itch, especially in people between 20 and 40. It also scars, making the skin look pucker like a lizard's or spotted like a leopard's.

"Affected people... are considered as dangerous, dirty and are avoided... likened to an animal on

the basis of... skin and behaviour," says a U.N. study.

For the "savanna" strain that causes blindness, the World Bank and WHO got donors together for a successful control programme in a swath of 11 countries under the hump of Africa, from Senegal to western Ethiopia. The grassy plain and sparse trees make the characteristic "savanna" landscape.

Now, the agencies want

to expand coverage to 16

other countries where the forest variety is more prevalent.

Most of Zaire is affected, and so are parts of 15 other countries, from Guinea-Bissau on the Atlantic coast to Ethiopia and Mali in the east. The study estimated that more than three out of four people in most of these areas suffer from the itching.

It can also affect the victim's sex life.

"My performance is inadequate," complained

one husband, quoted in a WHO press release.

Areas where the disease is concentrated are being mapped by two special programmes run by the World Bank, the World Health Organisation and the U.N. Development Programme.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, has been fully covered and Cameroon is due to be finished by June.

Dr. Godal hopes to have the detailed maps by next year.

Canada's health care system to undergo surgery

By Robert Kozak
Reuter

OTTAWA — Canada's health care system, admired as being one of the world's best, may soon undergo some major surgery.

Under pressure from hefty budget deficits, politicians of all stripes are searching desperately for ways to cut the bulging costs of Canada's state-funded health care system.

Speaking to newspaper editors in Dallas this week, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien vowed to save the distinctive system that allows Canadians to go to the doctor of their choice and stay in hospital at no charge.

"The fact is that no one in Canada needs to worry about medical bills," Mr. Chretien said.

Canadians spent an estimated 72 billion Canadian dollars (\$31 billion) on

health care in 1993, and health costs have risen to more than 10 per cent of gross domestic product from 8.7 per cent of GDP a decade ago.

In the United States, where there is no universal coverage, health costs accounted for 14.4 per cent of economy production in 1993.

Canada's federal government wants to cut the amount it spends on health care to a level closer to that of Europe.

"I'm of the view that we have to reduce it to under nine (per cent of GDP), to be in the same range as those who have full medicare in Europe," Mr. Chretien said recently. "They manage to do it within around eight to nine per cent of GDP, so we will do it."

Health care is a responsibility of the provinces, but Ottawa transfers money to them to help cover costs and ensure uniform national stan-

dards.

This year's federal budget laid out groundbreaking changes to the way health care is funded. Ottawa will leave it up to the provinces to decide how much to spend on health out of an envelope of cash it provides for social programmes.

Critics claim that along with changing its funding method, the government will also cut about 2.0 billion Canadian dollars (\$1.4 billion) for health

Nurses President Kathleen Connors.

The federal government plans to enforce national health standards by withholding transfer funds from the provinces if necessary. That may not work, critics say.

"If it's up to the provinces to decide how the dollars are spent, how is the government going to maintain the... Standards of the Health Act?" said National Federation of

health plan. The provinces ignored the fine.

"The provinces aren't afraid of Ottawa anymore," she says.

The opposition Reform Party recently demanded that funding for health care be made more flexible, with Ottawa guaranteeing so-called "core" services across the country. Other "non-core" services — such as cosmetic surgery — would be provided for by private user plans, or by fees to users.

Hereditary breast, ovarian cancer gene implicated in non-inherited tumors

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scientists have found the first direct evidence that a gene causing hereditary breast and ovarian cancer also plays a role in far more common non-inherited tumors.

The hereditary cases appear in women who inherit a flawed version of the gene, which fails to suppress the development of cancer as the normal gene does. Some 10 per cent or less of breast and ovarian tumors are here-
ditary.

Now, for the first time, scientists have found flawed versions of the gene in non-hereditary

ovarian tumors. The genes were normal when inherited but became flawed within the patients' own bodies.

In addition, other scientists have found that the gene is under-active in non-inherited breast cancers, suggesting it may play a role in those tumors even if it is not flawed.

About 182,000 cases of breast cancer and 26,600 cases of ovarian cancer are expected to be diagnosed in American women this year.

The gene, called BRCA1, causes about half of inherited breast cancers. It made headlines last year when it was finally found after a long

search.

The finding of flawed BRCA1 genes in non-inherited ovarian tumors is reported by two groups in the April issue of the journal *Nature Genetics*. One group, from the universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania and the National Institutes of Health, reports the finding in four of 47 tumors. A second team, from England and Canada, found a single example.

Results suggest that flaws in the BRCA1 gene may be involved in at least 10 per cent of non-inherited ovarian cancers, said Dr. Sofia Merajver of the University of Michigan Medical School.

lead author of one report.

Some regions of the gene have not yet been thoroughly examined, and they may produce more examples of flaws in non-inherited cancer, she said.

The gene could be implicated in still more cases if its anti-cancer control is stymied by other means, such as defects in other genes that turn BRCA1 on and off, she said.

That idea is advanced in the breast cancer study, which also appears in *Nature Genetics*.

Researchers from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee, report that the BRCA1 gene is much less active in non-inherited breast

tumors than in normal breast tissue.

In addition, when the researchers artificially reduced the effect of BRCA1 in normal and cancerous breast cells, it made the cells grow and divide faster. Such fast

growth is a hallmark of cancer.

The results support the notion that a decrease in the control BRCA1 exerts

over cell growth can help cause non-inherited cancer, said Vanderbilt researcher Jeffrey Holt.

if they are flawed in non-inherited breast and ovarian cancer, he said.

Dr. Barbara Weber of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia called Dr. Holt's work "an important lead."

Military technology takes aim at breast cancer

By Joanne Kenen
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Women's health advocates and the CIA, in an unusual alliance, recently

showed off some of the ultra high-tech military

technology they are trying to adapt to save women from breast cancer.

Soldiers, spies and rocket scientists are working with radiologists, cancer

specialists and public health officials to find

medical adaptations for

technology used to track an enemy missile or map the surface of Mars.

The programme is "an innovative transfer of technology from the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) world of satellites and missiles to the Public Health Service's world of women and breast cancer," said Dr. Susan

mammography, computer aided diagnosis, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound and optical targeting.

The technology that can "memorize" a landscape thousands of miles away and sound the alert when a single tank rolls in can be adapted to memorise breast tissue and point radiologists to a tiny new growth.

Dr. Blumenthal said that someday the imaging will be precise enough to determine whether a growth is cancerous by seeing if its edges are smooth or ragged.

Acting CIA Director Admiral William Stedman said advances will allow computers to exactly align a woman's "baseline" mammogram with a later image.

After they lined up, the imaging device would basically erase all the identical images — the unchanged healthy tissue — leaving in the picture only the new data that could be cancer.

Shorter antibiotic use works in U.S. sinus infection study

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — People with sinus infections recovered just as well after taking three days of an antibiotic as they did after taking the usual 10-day course, according to a new study.

The research contradicts conventional wisdom that more than a week of antibiotic treatment is needed to give such drugs a chance to wipe out the infection.

Sinus infections send

Americans to doctors offices 16 million times yearly, and physicians write almost that many antibiotic prescriptions annually for the condition, the researchers noted in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The lead study author said patient savings could be close to \$50 million a year.

"They would save \$4 or \$5 for each visit," said Dr. John W. Williams Jr. of Audie L. Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas.

The team studied 80 consecutive patients treated for sinus infections at the Durham (North Carolina) Veterans Affairs Medical Centre.

Patients all received over-the-counter nasal sprays and were randomly assigned to one of two groups: one group got

three days of the antibiotic trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, followed by seven days of an inert medication; the other group got a 10-day course of the antibiotic.

After two weeks, 77 per cent of the group that was treated for three days reported their infections had been cured or were much improved.

That was virtually the same as the 76 per cent of the group that reported their infections were cured or much improved after 10 days of treatment.

It took about five days for both groups to get better, and the rates of relapse and recurrence were similar.

The authors cautioned that their findings may not apply to antibiotics other than trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, which tends to stay in the body a relatively long time and may have a more lingering effect than other antibiotics.

The researchers also noted that while studies have shown that antibiotics work against the infections, no single medicine has emerged as superior.

The research was partly funded by Burroughs Wellcome Co., Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, which markets trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole under the trade name Septra. It is also sold under the trade name Bactrim.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. The fortress of Gibraltar.
2. A maker of clocks and watches.
3. Money allowed to a wife for the purchase of clothes and ornaments.
4. Showy trifles.
5. Punishment of death.
6. A chief or head officer in Afghanistan. Previously, the head of the army in Egypt.
7. The German parliament.
8. In Greek myth, god of medicine, son of Apollo and Coronis. Worshipped as god of healing, especially at Epidaurus. Slain by Zeus for reviving Hippolytus. Serpent and cock sacred to him. Known as Aesculapius by Romans.

* * * *

PUZZLES

HEADS ALIKE

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. COYPU | and COYOTE |
| 2. JACKASS | and JACKAL |
| 3. KOALA BEAR | and KODIAC BEAR |
| 4. MANATEE | and MANDRILL OR MANGABEY |
| 5. MONKEY | and MONGOOSE |
| 6. PANDA | and PANTHER |
| 7. PORPOISE | and PORCUPINE |
| 8. WALRUS | and WALLABY |

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ON LOCATION
By William Canine

ACROSS

1 "— of Land" 34 Gutterburg or Homo 65 Aunt in Andalucia 96 "Ere we open —" 102 — 103 — 104 — 105 — 106 — 107 — 108 — 109 — 110 — 111 — 112 — 113 — 114 — 115 — 116 — 117 — 118 — 119 — 120 — 121 — 122 — 123 — 124 — 125 — 126 — 127 — 128 — 129 — 130 — 131 — 132 — 133 — 134 — 135 — 136 — 137 — 138 — 139 — 140 — 141 — 142 — 143 — 144 — 145 — 146 — 147 — 148 — 149 — 150 — 151 — 152 — 153 — 154 — 155 — 156 — 157 — 158 — 159 — 160 — 161 — 162 — 163 — 164 — 165 — 166 — 167 — 168 — 169 — 170 — 171 — 172 — 173 — 174 — 175 — 176 — 177 — 178 — 179 — 180 — 181 — 182 — 183 — 184 — 185 — 186 — 187 — 188 — 189 — 190 — 191 — 192 — 193 — 194 — 195 — 196 — 197 — 198 — 199 — 200 — 201 — 202 — 203 — 204 — 205 — 206 — 207 — 208 — 209 — 210 — 211 — 212 — 213 — 214 — 215 — 216 — 217 — 218 — 219 — 220 — 221 — 222 — 223 — 224 — 225 — 226 — 227 — 228 — 229 — 230 — 231 — 232 — 233 — 234 — 235 — 236 — 237 — 238 — 239 — 240 — 241 — 242 — 243 — 244

Jordan, PNA finalise draft accords, but sees implementation difficulties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

one husband, quoted in WHO press release. Areas where the disease is concentrated are being mapped by two speed programmes run by the World Bank, the U.N. Development Programme, Nigeria's most populous country, has been fully covered and Cameroon due to be finished June.

Dr. Godal hopes to have the detailed map next year.

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Health plan. The province where the fine... "The provinces are...," she says. The opposition... recently demands more... for health care... across the... such as... would be... private... fees to... d tumors

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Israel's intransigence and adamant refusal to sign the NPT will obstruct

the meeting.

Comments made by Deputy Prime Minister Abdur Raouf Rawabdeh, who led the Jordanian side to the meeting at the Foreign Ministry, as Yasser Abed Rabbo, the chief Palestinian delegate, also highlighted a controversy surrounding quota for pilgrims for this year's Haj in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Rawabdeh said Jordan,

which normally issues own travel documents to Arab-Israeli and Palestinian pilgrims, was no longer willing to accept that Arab-Israeli or Palestinian pilgrims be considered part of the quota set by Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said the PNA was ready to accept Israeli pilgrims as part of the Palestinian quota and that the issue was under discussion with the Saudi authorities.

In their comments after a morning meeting, Mr. Rawabdeh and Mr. Abed Rabbo, minister of culture and information in the PNA based in Gaza and Jericho, also touched on the issue of Hamas, an opponent of the autonomy deal signed between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel.

Mr. Rawabdeh reaffirmed that Jordan, while remaining committed to democracy and the freedom of expression, would not allow its territory to be used against any Arab leadership.

After a spate of violence in the Gaza Strip, the PNA called on Jordan to curtail the activities of Hamas members living in the Kingdom.

Jordan complied with the request by asking Hamas leaders — who are Jordanian citizens — here to issue Amman-based statements, but rejected that it was condoning Hamas' activities.

The group is not a licensed organisation in Jordan and therefore any political activities undertaken on behalf of the group in Jordan would be in violation of the Kingdom's laws, the Hamas spokesman in Amman was told.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said Wednesday the PNA leadership was engaged in a dialogue with Hamas to curb anti-Israeli violence which has cast serious doubts over the implementation of the autonomy accord.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian charge d'affaires was quoted as saying that Jordan and the PNA had finalised detailed agreements on cooperation in transport, culture, education and economic cooperation, but that implementing them could be obstructed by Israel.

The Associated Press quoted Omar Al Khatib as saying that

the three agreements will be signed later this month.

"The agreements will open the door for a new era in cooperation," said Mr. Khatib.

"But there is concern that re-

lated agreements reached separately by Jordan and the Palestinians with Israel might impose constraints on the scope of our cooperation with Jordan," added Mr. Khatib, who participated in the meeting.

Mr. Khatib was quoted as saying the concern was sparked by Israeli hindrance of similar accords reached with Jordan recently.

He accused Israel of obstructing a Jordanian-Palestinian post-

at service accord by refusing to allow mail to leave Palestinian territories to Jordan.

The dispute centres on the Palestinians use of the stamp of the word "millime," a fraction of the Palestinian pound, which the Israelis regarded as a Palestinian attempt to show economic indepen-

dence.

The Israelis insisted that instead it should be "fils," a fraction of the Jordanian dinar, which is widely in use in the occupied territories and one of the main currencies in circulation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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"The agreements will open the

Economy

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 20-21, 1995

Business

Dollar hovers around 80 yen after hitting new low

TOKYO (R) — The dollar was hovering above 80 yen Wednesday afternoon after plumping to a fresh post-world war low, as Japan's finance minister warned the United States against using its weak currency as a trade tool.

The dollar was quoted at around 80.15 yen in afternoon Tokyo trade, lifted off its new low of 79.75 yen hit in the morning by operators' short-covering.

In comments that appeared to be aimed at Washington, the minister said that it was wrong to use currencies as a trade negotiating tool and that both intervention and

interest rate policies were effective to counter the yen's rise.

"Currencies must reflect economic fundamentals, and when they fail to do so, we must make utmost efforts to let them [reflect fundamentals]," he told a news conference.

The U.S. currency has plummeted more than 20 per cent this year, from a high of 101.45 yen in January.

Many dealers suspect Washington may be tolerating, if not encouraging, a weak dollar to pry trade concessions from Japan.

President Bill Clinton told a news conference earlier

that the United States wanted a stronger dollar, but he raised questions about government's ability to affect currency direction in the short term.

Mr. Clinton also highlighted gaps between Japan and the United States over trade — differences which are weighing heavily on the dollar's value.

"We have been very patient as a country for a very long time in this area," he said but added that the two countries "should not be at risk of a trade war."

His comments followed news of a persistent stalemate in U.S.-Japan auto trade

talks in Washington.

"I think the U.S. is putting more stress on correcting the trade imbalance rather than concerning itself about the weak dollar," said Shingo Toda of Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance.

The dollar's latest decline followed market disappointment with Japan's emergency economic package and a discount rate cut to a new historic low of one per cent last Friday.

Disappointment over slim results from a meeting between the Japanese minister and U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin over the weekend also undermined

sentiment this week.

Japanese Finance Ministry sources, however, said Japan felt it had done all it could to counter the yen's rise, while Japan's chief spokesman Kozo Igarashi said the real problem rested with the United States, Jiji news agency reported.

Baok of Japan Governor Yasuo Matsushita told a separate news conference that Japan's government should urge Washington to cut its huge budget deficit.

"There are worries in the market about structural problems of the United States. We need to strongly urge the

United States to cut its budget deficit," Mr. Matsushita said.

Economists said they saw little hope of quick action by the United States to save the dollar, either by raising interest rates or showing resolve to cut its budget deficit.

Japanese stocks shrugged off the yen's surge and remained ahead in mid-afternoon, but their gains were technical. The Nikkei share average closed up 150.97 points, or 0.97 per cent.

The dollar fell as low as 1.3465 against the German mark and was trading at about 1.3508 in late afternoon.

official "floating" rate of 1,750 rials to the dollar, added.

The move will further clamp down on imports as Iran struggles under an economic crisis, a lack of hard currency and a short-and-medium-term debt of more than \$30 billion.

Apart from the floating rate — which has in fact been fixed for the past 18 months — there is also an "import-export" rate of 2,340 rials to the dollar which is applied to Iranian exporters wanting to import products.

German banks warn of danger to exports as mark rises

COLOGNE, Germany (AFP) — German exports face being tightly squeezed by the mark's endless rise against European currencies and the dollar, the Association of German Banks (BDB) warned in its weekly report Wednesday.

The aeronautical arms of Daimler-Benz, Daimler-Benz Aerospace (DASA), added its voice to the concern, saying it faced "three-figure losses" of more than 100 million than 100 million marks," Bischoff said.

He was echoing earlier warnings from German industrialists who have looked on aghast as the greenback sank down to Wednesday's trading level of 1.3520 marks, not far off its record low of 1.3450 reached on March 8. It had closed at 1.3465 Tuesday in London.

The U.S. currency edged back just above Tuesday evening's 1.3645 marks Wednesday afternoon; after the U.S. trade deficit shrank to \$9 billion for February, below an expected \$10 billion.

A German finance ministry spokeswoman said meanwhile Bonn was worried by the turmoil on the currency markets, but said the instability would correct itself eventually.

The BDB warned, however, that current rates would fuel pressure on German producers having to compete with foreign enterprises.

The association said the mark's appreciation against the dollar was not so much a problem as its rise against European currencies. The weak greenback in fact helps to keep down the price of dollar-denominated raw materials.

OECD warns Turkey on risks in delaying reforms

PARIS (AFP) — Turkey risks encountering renewed financial-market instability which could jeopardise growth if it delays economic reform and sustained budget deficit reduction, the OECD warned Wednesday.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) foresaw a modest recovery this year from a sharp 1994 slowdown that followed overheating of the economy at end-1993 and the January 1994 run against the Turkish lira.

After several years of rapid growth, Turkey's GDP had fallen by 4.8 per cent last year and inflation averaged 120 per cent year-on-year, as the government implemented a strong stabilisation programme in the wake of the lira's 70 per cent first-quarter plunge against the dollar.

In a survey of the Turkish economy, the OECD said authorities had achieved "considerable short-term success" in stabilising financial market conditions, "but lasting stability is not assured."

It said durable expansion of the economy, led by exports and private investment, would depend on "reining in inflation, fundamental structural reform and sustained medium-term fiscal consolidation."

The OECD said last year's crisis was consequence of lax fiscal policy, run-away inflation and chronic large budget deficits in the early 1990s, which allowed the public sector borrowing requirement to rise to 12 per cent of GDP by 1993.

It said this had hit confidence and raised concerns about Turkey's ability to service its external debt, which stood at \$64.8 billion September 1994, of which \$8.2 billion was owed by private sector borrowers.

Turkey's debt service at that time accounted for 29 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings, according to

the report, which noted that the early-1994 lira crisis was triggered when two international rating agencies downgraded its sovereign credit rating.

The agencies removed Turkey from "credit watch" status last summer, as the April stabilisation programme, backed by the International Monetary Fund, began to yield results.

The public sector borrowing requirement was cut on balance to an estimated 7.4 per cent of GDP overshooting the target of 6.2 per cent mainly because of delays in privatisation of loss-making State Economic Enterprises and higher debt service, the OECD said.

The balance of payments improved substantially, and exchange market stability was restored, with the lira showing a year-on-year depreciation of about 30 per cent at end-1994.

The lira depreciation and the imminent customs union with the European Union should give a boost to Turkey's exports and help dampen inflation over the next two years, the OECD said.

It said output should grow by about 2.8 per cent this year and a modest 1.5 per cent rise in investment.

For 1996, the OECD saw a more broadly-based recovery, with GDP growth rising to 4.8 per cent, helped by a brisk recovery in investment.

It said inflation could fall sharply to 70 per cent on average in 1995 and 40 per cent in 1996, while the current account surplus should rise to the \$4.0 to \$4.5 billion range from \$3.0 billion in 1994.

The OECD said the medium-term outlook for the Turkish economy was "fundamentally bright", but could be realised only by meeting the 1995 budget targets and accelerating structural reforms to overhaul a bloated, inefficient public sector.

Analysts said odds on a rate rise shortened after comments released Wednesday

Arab Gulf states to forge new foreign economic ties

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Key ministers from six Arab Gulf oil states will meet next month to try to forge a new economic relationship with Japan and other industrial giants to acquire technology and promote non-oil exports, officials said Wednesday.

The ministers of foreign affairs, oil, economy and finance from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will hold a rare meeting in Riyadh in late May which will also discuss the latest plunge in the U.S. dollar that has combined with low crude prices to aggravate their economic woes.

"It is the first meeting by such ministers in several years. It will focus on our relations with Japan, the United States, the European Union (EU) and other world groupings. We feel it is time that we draw up a mechanism for such a relationship that will benefit all of us," an official from the GCC secretariat told AFP by telephone from the Riyadh headquarters.

"The talks will also cover the continuous decline in the U.S. dollar, its impact on our economies and measures to counter such effects," he added.

The official, who requested anonymity, confirmed a report by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Bayan that the meeting would be held just before talks between the GCC ministers and EU foreign ministers on May 29.

Although customs could be removed under the GATT deal, industrial powers have been reluctant to transfer

technology to the Gulf, arguing the region is relatively small to absorb large industrial projects and there are restrictions in most member states on foreign ownership.

The U.S. Japan and the EU are the main economic partners of the GCC, with their trade exceeding \$90 billion a year. This accounts for more than two thirds of the Gulf group's total trade.

Around 70 per cent of the GCC's oil exports of 13 million barrels per day go to those countries.

Gulf states have launched a campaign to ease dependence on oil after a sharp decline in prices slashed their annual earnings to around \$70 billion over the past eight years from more than \$180 billion in 1981.

Despite an industrialisation drive, their non-oil exports have remained a fraction of their total exports, standing at around \$12 billion a year. This is because their industries are limited to light and medium products.

GCC states are also worried about proposals by industrial nations to impose new energy taxes, which they say will slow down growth in oil demand and inflict further damage on their economies.

"The Riyadh meeting will include a comprehensive review of economic links with world groups, and other countries and preparation of a new mechanism for a dialogue with them in the coming state," Al Bayan said.

Sterling tumbles to new lows

LONDON (R) — Sterling was forced to new lows Wednesday against the German mark and a basket of key currencies, increasing market expectations of an interest rate rise in May to defend the pound and ease inflationary pressures.

Analysts said odds on a rate rise shortened after comments released Wednesday

by Bank of England Governor Eddie George in which he expressed worry about sterling's weakness and hinted at a tightening of monetary policy if it continued.

The words struck interest rate alarm bells in the market and sent sterling to a new low in early trade in Europe Wednesday of 2.1790 marks.

Since the start of the year, it has depreciated 10 per cent against the relentlessly strong German currency.

The pound also hit a new low of 83.6 on its trade-weighted index against a basket of 21 currencies, below a previous low of 84.0 set in September 1992 after the pound pulled out of Europe's exchange rate mechanism currency grid.

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Business & Finance

Business Gatsby Deal

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Israeli firm applies to invest at eastern shore of Dead Sea

ISRAEL'S Al Rom Group is among a list of 66 companies which have submitted applications for tourism investments on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea. The first includes companies from Romania, the United States, Britain and Germany as well as Jordanian companies. The projects allowed in the first stage are hotels, ordinary and touristic housing, small ports, and other major touristic projects. Excluded from the first stage are "supporting services" such as restaurants, petrol stations, commercial buildings and the like. The Jordan Valley Authority has requested that all applications be supported with a JD 25,000 bank guarantee for the lease of every dunum of land. The Jordan Valley Authority will be studying the applications before presenting its decisions to the Council of Ministers for final approval as of May 15, 1995 (Al Ra'i).

THE ARAB White Cement Manufacturing Company agreed to resume supplying the association of construction industries with 500 tonnes of cement each week until the end of this month. The company has recently slashed the volume to 250 tonnes citing unorganized distribution by the association to some 250 tile plants in addition to lower production by the company. The association accuses the company of selling white cement to many parties causing market instability and giving rise to the black market. Before the end of this month a committee representing the company, the association and the tile plants is supposed to come up with a study about the tile plants showing their numbers and their equipment as well as their needs for white cement (Al Ra'i).

THE JORDAN Investment Corporation (JIC) has taken up the initiative to establish a large Jordanian company to export agricultural products with a JD 2 million capital. The idea was first floated by Agriculture Minister Mansour Ben Tarif. The JIC will participate with a 10 per cent equity with the rest to be covered by the private sector. The government has promised full backing for the new company (Al Ra'i).

THE MINISTRY of Finance intends to form a higher council for customs and free zones with the participation of representatives from the private and public sectors. According to Nazmi Al Abdullah, director-General of the Department of Customs, the higher council will look after the implementation of customs regulations and will put quick solutions to any problem that hampers the relationship between the department and the private sector. Addressing a gathering of businessmen and government officials, Mr. Abdullah announced new facilities that were approved to speed up and ease the customs procedures. First, a judiciary account was opened to register refundable fees to allow for speedy repayment of sums retained for various purposes. Second, lowering the deposit percentage on unverified documents from two per cent to one per cent (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

THE GENERAL assembly of the General Arabia Insurance Company approved JD 144,000 in dividends (12 per cent), the same as in 1993. The company posted a JD 183,907 net profit in 1994 compared to JD 173,634 in 1993. Total assets amounted to JD 4.24 million (JD 3.98 in 1993) while investments dropped slightly to JD 2.49 million (Al Ra'i).

Arabs complete ambitious stocks project

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states have completed a project to set up an advanced data network to link their stock markets and encourage regional investors to bring back their overseas funds, its operators said Wednesday.

The computerised stocks data network at the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) was launched early this month and linked the bourses of six Arab countries, the AMF said in a statement sent to AFP.

Officials said the data base was part of AMF's new policy to encourage reforms in the Arab region after billions of dollars in aid failed to produce results.

Most regional countries still suffer from such economic problems as debt, slow growth rates, unemployment, inflation and budget deficits.

Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, and a few other members launched economic reforms but the process has been slow.

Other countries in the region, including the oil-rich members in the Gulf, have plans to restructure their eco-

nomic due to a sharp decline in crude prices.

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial organisation, said the data network was carried out with the help of the World Bank's International Finance Corporation and was part of its plan to develop local stock markets.

It said the project would help "increase investment awareness in the region and enable investors to take right decisions and identify opportunities."

Experts said the network could promote investment in the region but they stressed Arab markets must first open up to investors.

They noted several regional exchanges were still confined to nationals while the more liberal floors were giving only limited access to foreigners.

"The data base is a very good idea," one expert said. "It help me see more invest-

ment opportunities. But how can I invest in another market when its laws still bar foreigners from trading in shares?"

Only 10 of the Arab League's 22 members have formal stock exchanges and activity in such markets have remained relatively small due to political uncertainty in some members, restrictions on foreign participation and lack of information and incentives about trading institutions.

More than 1,100 banks and companies trade their shares in Arab region. Their market capitalisation exceed \$100 billion but this remained a fraction of the total world capitalisation of more than \$9 trillion.

Arab officials have repeatedly called for the development of regional stock markets to revive their economies and attract part of the more than \$800 billion owned by regional investors abroad.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SWISSMANN

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 19/04/1995

COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	PREV. CLOSING PRICE JD	CLOSING PRICE
ABD BANK P/C	268	51445	193.500 191.500
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	27376	120383	4.800 4.800
BANK OF JORDAN	3950	15208	3.650 3.650
NICOLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	4150	5410	1.600 1.550
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	5150	14807	2.850 2.870
THE HOUSING BANK	42500	364485	2.000 2.000
JORDAN BANK	11025	3256	1.450 1.450
JORDAN GULF BANK	5800	8454	1.450 1.450
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	4350	14875	3.500 3.500
ARAB ISLAMIC BANK	33885	138672	4.050 4.070
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1782	8415	4.800 4.730
EMARAT BANK	8200	3196	3.700 3.700
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1450	6318	4.350 4.360
BETTA KHALA SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	5700	20222	3.400 3.570
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT	74150	100597	1.380 1.340
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	308331	638403	1.990 2.050
BANKS SECTORS	538978	1573063	INDEX NUMBER: 169.05
			CHANGE : -0.33%

ARABIAN SEA INSURANCE	750	1398	1.850 1.850
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	37200	109131	2.850 2.850
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	500	1335	3.650 3.650
INSURANCE SECTOR	38450	107873	INDEX NUMBER: 135.60
			CHANGE : 0.00%

JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	12000	28901	1.650 1.680
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	70300	111455	1.570 1.580
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	48611	354860	7.200 7.300
IRAKI OILFIELD & ELECTRICITY	527	592	1.260 1.210
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	200	522	2.000 2.000
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	650	4490	6.900 6.950
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	3600	11714	3.290 3.260
NATIONAL PETROLEUM SECURITIES	2350	5680	2.460 2.420
PALESTINE INDUSTRIES	75	355	1.150 1.150
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	529	1934	3.610 3.660
THE JORDAN HORSESHOES MILLS	350	2888	8.250 8.250
THE JORDAN PETRO-CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING	2900	12284	4.000 4.000
JORDAN DAIRY	1100	2750	2.500 2.500
JORDAN PRINTING & PACKING	72	360	5.000 5.000
THE JORDAN PIPELINE MANUFACTURING	1980	5430	2.710 2.750
SPINNING & WEAVING	10130	3600	3.000 3.000
SUDAN INDUSTRIES	950	2391	3.510 3.550
DAN AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	3450	37451	7.950 7.950
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	45700	43410	9.900 9.920
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	3820	27720	7.150 7.200
LIVESTOCK & DAIRY	5000	3875	7.000 7.000
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	44300	71236	1.620 1.600
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	300	960	3.150 3.200
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	36190	113507	3.030 3.150
JOHNSON REFRIGERATION	850	1050	4.000 4.200
UNIVERSITY CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	250	555	.690 .690
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	800	6324	4.770 4.950
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	1200	30809	1.850 1.850
NATIONAL SILVER-CHEMICALS	1200	2377	3.000 3.000
PALM COTTON FIBRE & CHEMICALS	8250	3068	3.430 3.430
PARTNER INVESTMENT	3050	5367	1.730 1.800
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	4000	14520	3.610 3.650
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	7500	15312	3.000 2.040
INDUSTRIAL SECTORS	398717	570845	INDEX NUMBER: 134.97
			CHANGE : +1.48%

GRAND TOTAL	1078017	3031721	INDEX NUMBER: 140.92
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	404034	620276	CHANGE : -0.35%

ARABIAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 19/04/1995

Islamic bank head says M.E. development bank not needed

DUBAI(R) — The head of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) said in remarks published Tuesday that there was no need for Arab states to set up a proposed \$5 billion Middle East development bank that includes Israel.

IDB Director Osama Faqih told the United Arab Emirates Al Ittihad newspaper that "there is no need for the Arab region to set up the so-called development bank in the Middle East."

"In the Arab World there are enough specialised financial institutions... supporting Arab cooperation and serving joint interests," he added. The Arab League and the oil-rich Arab Gulf states

oppose the formation of a Middle East development bank, seen as one of the dividends of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

IDB helps finance development projects and trade among members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Officials from Arab Gulf states recently voiced strong opposition to the formation of the bank.

United Arab Emirates Finance and Industry Minister Ahmad Bin Humaid Al Tayer on April 12 told Arab finance ministers that setting up joint projects with Israel would be more dangerous for Arabs than Israel's deployment of nuclear weapons.

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Kingdom's Davis Cup captain evaluates participation, urges advanced preparation for upcoming competitions

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the second consecutive year, Jordan's Davis Cup team was again unable to return to the senior division Group 2 after the conclusion of the Asia/Oceania Zone Group 3 competition in Dubai.

However, the question lies not in why the team was unable to score a convincing result this year, but in what can be done to assure a brighter future for the game in the Kingdom.

Prior to their departure, the players and their officials had expressed optimism that they could do well in their six-team group. However, the results were disappointing: Jordan's team scored their only win 2-1 over the UAE on the final day. They lost 3-0 to Pacific Oceania, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, and 2-1 to Lebanon.

Although Azzouni and

"I was very optimistic before the competition. But while I am sure the players did their best, I am of course quite disappointed with the results," team captain Talal Maher told the Jordan Times.

Jordan finished fifth in their sixth-team group from which Saudi Arabia advanced to Group 2. In the other seven-team group playing at the same venue, Bahrain was the one to advance leaving behind Singapore, Kuwait, Brunei, Syria, Kazakhstan and Oman.

Jordan's team was led by team veteran Imad Abu Hamda who has just graduated from the School of Medicine at the University of Jordan. The other players were Faris Azzouni, one of the country's top players, Khaled Hussein, and 15-year-old promising player Khaled Nafa'a.

Although Azzouni and

Abu Hamda had played Davis Cup before, it was the first time for the other two.

The team captain explained that while the hot and humid weather undoubtedly affected the players' performance, this should not be held as an excuse for the "poor results."

"A team should be ready for any circumstance and adapt to conditions surrounding any competition," Mr. Maher noted. "We cannot take one single factor and attribute it to our defeat."

Mr. Maher noted the fact that the team did not play any friendly matches prior to the competition had a negative effect. "It should not have been difficult for the Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) to have hosted a team from a nearby country. That would have put the players in the mood for competition, and would have displayed any shortcomings while they were still here."

He added that it was also a disadvantage not to have the coach with the team at the competition.

"I couldn't have expected more from the players in Dubai. They gave it all they have. Faris (Azzouni) played an outstanding 3-hour-long match against Lebanon. He was absolutely brilliant. Imad (Abu Hamda) undoubtedly felt he had 3 lots of pressure on him and he played very well on the first two days before coming down with a cold. Although we lost, the matches were very close."

Mr. Maher added: "We should have been better prepared, especially fitnesswise." However taking into consideration the circumstances of the competing players and the very young age of the rest of the country's promising players, one should not expect any other results.

The Kingdom's former top-ranked player Hani Al Ali who retired in 1993, always stressed the fact that

the national tennis team was only regrouped for a certain competition, with no prior training or matches. In addition the number of players was also very limited.

This year too, the JTF faced the same problem. While Abu Hamda was busy with his final year at university, he missed last year's competitions. In order to get back into action he attended a 10-day training camp in Spain and played with his coaches.

While the Kingdom's 1994 champion Laith Al Azzouni is this year busy with his tawjih, his brother Faris was the only other experienced player on the team. Khaled Hussein, who studies in the U.S., was in Amman only shortly before the competition, leaving his coach and officials little time to evaluate his form. Himself and the youngest member of the team, Khaled Nafa'a, almost lacked the competitive match experience on

the Davis Cup level. So what should be done in future competitions?

"First of all there should be change of attitude," said Mr. Maher. "All concerned should feel that we will be playing to compete, and not just for the sake of participation."

"I suggest that we start our preparations for the upcoming Davis Cup (scheduled for March '96) this summer, and not merely two months before. We should also concentrate on the young promising players that we have, who are always there for practice and not yet that burdened with their studies."

"Coming up with the necessary sponsorship and year-round practice to maintain a competitive team will need a lot of effort, but it is the only way to compete on a regional level. All other nations we played are well advanced in this regard. It is time we prepare well too."

Five Cuban boxers banned for doping

BONN (R) — Five Cuban boxers, including former world bantamweight champion Enrique Carrion, have been banned for two years for taking the banned diuretic furosemide, the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) said on Wednesday.

AIBA said the Cuban Boxing Federation had announced the ban after the boxers tested positive for the drug during out-of-competition tests. The international federation has suspended the fighters from all events.

The other fighters on the list were Alexander Jimenez Rodriguez, a junior flyweight world champion, Mario Kin delan Mesa, Yoandri Reys Pie and Ernesto Cabrera Laugart.

Last November Cuban world flyweight champion Waldemar Font and Manuel Mantilla Rodriguez, who won gold medals at last year's Goodwill Games in St. Petersburg, tested positive for the same drug.

The AIBA was not immediately able to give any dates regarding the positive tests and no spokesman was available to give any more information about the cases.

Diuretics are sometimes used to shed weight quickly or decrease the concentration of drugs in urine.

Cantona starts punishment

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Eric Cantona's fans migrated from far and wide Tuesday to see their soccer hero begin the 120 hours community service punishment he got for attacking an abusive fan at a match in January.

"Cantona was absolutely fantastic with the kids, absolutely unbelievable," said Anthony Cain, coach of a community center team that the Manchester United star worked within in his first season.

"He was superb, couldn't have been better."

Among the crowd of admirers that showed up for the fiery Frenchman's first

day of atonement were fans from Norway, and a coach-load of French school children from Perpignan in southwestern France, come to see their compatriot after a rugby league tour of the North of England.

The Palau XXIII under-15's posed for a picture with Cantona and their coach — the former French rugby league captain, Guy Letor.

Cantona spent the morning at United's Littleton training ground with his junior club colleagues before being driven away to the Cliff to teach football skills to children from the Ellesmere Park Junior School.

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GOR

Jordan's U-22 basketball team leaves for Malaysia today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Under-22 basketball team leaves for Malaysia Thursday evening to take part in an eight-nation international basketball tournament which will be held in Kuala Lumpur April 24-30.

Jordan will be the only Arab country playing in the tournament, the proceeds of which will be donated to kidney disease patients.

Participating teams are China, Taiwan, Australia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Russia. The Municipality of Greater Amman has sponsored the participation with JD 10,000 as Jordan's U-22 team will be representing the City of Amman.

The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) sees this as a good opportunity for this age-group before the



Mohammad Shamali



Yousef Abu Baker

U-22 team is soon regrouped in preparation for the Arab championship which will be held in Amman March 1996. Jordan will then play in the Asian U-22 championship in Shanghai in June '96.

The JBF has been criticised for not including players from various clubs as the team groups players from only three clubs: Jazrech, Ahli and Orthodo-

The most notable absen-

tees are Ramez Hamoudah, Mohammad Al Shamsi and Ghairi En-nabi.

Although it might be argued that the U-22 team travelling to Malaysia was only recently regrouped and did not practice together for a long time, JBF chairman Awwad Hadid said players were not out of action throughout the past months. "Al Ahli's players joined their team in the Arab Club Championship which was held in Cairo recently, while Al Orthodox's players participated in a friendly tournament in Syria. U-18 players have been practicing with their team in preparation for the World Championship in July."

For the past two weeks the U-22 team has been playing as a separate team in the Aramec tournament grouping different companies.

xi. Only two of the players are over 22, Jihad Saliba and Marwan Saeedi. Three players represent the U-18 team: Ma'an Odeh, Zeid Al Khlas and Mahmoud Sha'aban. The other players are Riyad Ayesh, Ziyad Nabulsi, Yousef Abu Baker, Husam Abdul Lanif, Moustafa Al Ghoul, Faisal Nsour, and Naser Alawneh.

The most notable absen-

Ivanisevic, Berasategui out of Nice Open

NICE (Agencies) — Defending champion Alberto Berasategui and Goran Ivanisevic, the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds at the Nice Open, both dropped out of their first-round matches with injuries Tuesday.

Berasategui, after two hours of play against fellow Spaniard Alberto Costa, had to withdraw due to body cramps and was barely able to hold his racket.

Costa lost the first-set tiebreaker, 10-8 but was winning in the second, 4-0, when Berasategui called it quits.

Berasategui won the Nice tournament last year, that started a successful year for him that included a spot in the French Open final and a rise into the top 10.

Ivanisevic, a former Wimbledon finalist, beat Henri Leconte of France in the first set, 6-2, but lost the first game of the second set before defaulting, citing pain in his right knee. He dropped out of a tournament in Stuttgart, Germany, in February and had an operation to repair cartilage damage before returning last week at Barcelona, where he made the semifinals.

"It started hurting in the first set," Ivanisevic said. "Then I couldn't bend it any more. I will get some treatment tomorrow and take a few days of rest."

In other first round matches, Tomas Carbonell of Spain beat Olivier Delaître of France, 6-3, 6-0; Mark Woodforde of Australia downed Horst Skoff of Austria, 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) and top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelikov of Russia eliminated American David Wheaton.

Javier Sanchez of Spain beat a former Nice winner, Andrei Chesnokov of Russia, 6-3, 6-3.

The season's best clay court player, Thomas Muster of Austria, is not entered in the tournament. Muster won the past two tournaments in Estoril, Portugal, and Barcelona, and is unbeaten in 16 matches on clay this year.

Chang, Ferreira advance

Both local hero Michael Chang and second seeded Wayne Ferreira made it through to the second round of the \$328,000 Hong Kong Open Tuesday without too many problems.

Also through, but not without a fight, was third seed Jim Courier, the 1992 Hong Kong holder who won last week's Japan Open with a victory over new world No. 1 Andre Agassi.

In an evening match Chang maintained his hero status in his spiritual home of Hong



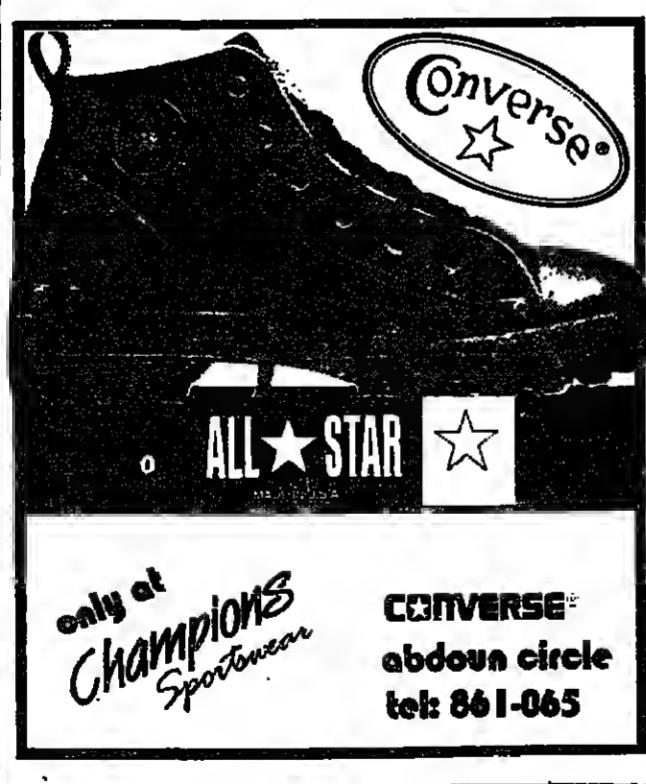
Alberto Berasategui

Kong as he overpowered Jakob Hlaeser of Switzerland 6-1, 6-3.

Chang, a sporting idol in the territory who makes much of his multi-million dollar annual income from contracts and sponsorships relating to the Asian region, had the overwhelming support of the crowd watching on Centre Court at Victoria Park.

Courier finally subdued his 21-year-old South Korean opponent who put up a brave losing fight against the world No. 11.

Young II-Yoon, ranked 289th in the world on the ATP Tour, refused to roll over and die and sent Courier scurrying around court with a variety of lobs, drop shots and solid groundstrokes.



GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAHAN HIRSCH
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At one table declarer won the club lead in hand, cashed the ace of hearts and cashed the heart with the rest of trumps. A diamond to the king provided the entry for another heart ruff, again with a high trump. The four of trumps to the nine was the entry for a third heart ruff.

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Within less than 15 days since the publication of the advertisement, mentioning the full mailing address clearly along with the telephone number. Dates for interviewing the applicants at the military Attache's office will be set later.

Ministry of Labour approval No. 7/113/116 date April 18, 1995.

Triple Olympic ski champion retires

ZURICH (Agencies) — Switzerland's triple Olympic Alpine skiing champion Vreni Schneider announced her retirement from active competition on Wednesday.

Schneider, 30, who last month clinched her third World Cup overall title by taking the season's last alom, told a news conference she had decided to end her 11-year career "on a high note."

The supreme technical skier, Schneider also won three World Championship titles to add to her three Olympic gold medals.

Widely acknowledged as the best women's Alpine skier of all time, her 55 World Cup triumphs was second only to the 62 wins of the legendary Austrian Annemarie Moser-Proell.

Schneider's best season was in 1989 when she won a record 14 World Cups comprising six giant slaloms, seven slaloms and a combined event to eclipse the previous best mark of 13 set by Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark.

Schneider won the gold medal in the slalom and giant slalom in the 1988 Olympics and in the slalom in Lillehammer last year.

She won her first World Cup race in 1984 and subsequently became the most consistent skier on the women's circuit. Although she disliked the speed races, she forced herself to compete in downhill and super-G's to pick up extra points.

Tyson wants Islamic rite

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Mike Tyson wants to make a Muslim pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, his spiritual advisor said, but he has no plans to travel there for a religious ceremony later this month.

"If I continued to play now, I'd burn myself out and I don't want to do that. The most important thing for me this year is to stay healthy and I'm going to take as much time off as I need," Graf was quoted as saying by the magazine.

Graf dismissed reports in some German newspapers that the back injury that kept her sidelined for several weeks had returned.

She extended her 1995 un-

beaten match streak to 18-0

by winning her fourth title of the year at the Houston women's tennis championship Sunday.

A Saudi news report Mon-

day said Tyson and ex-champ

Muhammad Ali would travel

there for the rite later this month.

UEFA Cup final will be an all-Italian affair

PARIS (AFP) — The UEFA Cup final next month became an all-Italian affair when Juventus and Parma saw off their German rivals in their second-leg semi-final matches on Tuesday.

Parma were first into the final when they beat Bayer Leverkusen in Italy 3-0 with goals from Faustino Asprillo and one from Gianfranco Zola to win 5-1 on aggregate.

Several hours later Juventus, who meet Parma in the Italian Cup final in June, booked their place in next month's UEFA Cup final by beating Borussia Dortmund in Germany 2-1 to win 4-3 on aggregate.

It was a stunning performance from Parma's Colombian star Asprillo which assured them of their third European final appearance in three years.

The Italian side won the European Cup Winner's Cup '93 and the European Super Cup last year.

The South American struck after only four minutes when he hit home a loose ball after Leverkusen goalkeeper Rüdiger Volborn failed to hold a shot from Massimo

Crippa.

It was to be a fatal blow for the German's whose hopes of reaching the final had suddenly gone from slim to non-existence.

Trailing 2-1 from the first-leg, the Germans, despite several threatening attacks from striker Rudi Voeller, never looked like scoring the two goals they need to keep their slender hopes alive.

Several hours later Juventus, who meet Parma in the Italian Cup final in June, booked their place in next month's UEFA Cup final by beating Borussia Dortmund in Germany 2-1 to win 4-3 on aggregate.

It was a brilliant performance by Asprillo which assured them of their third European final appearance in three years.

"It was a great performance," said Parma coach Nevio Scala. "For the third year in a row we are in a European final."

In Dortmund, Juventus used all their experience to beat Borussia Dortmund despite taking the lead after only six minutes thanks to a goal by Sergio Porrini from a corner.

Only four minutes later

Borussia's Brazilian star and former Juventus player Julio Cesar levelled the score from a free kick.

Borussia, beaten in the UEFA Cup final in 1993 by Juventus, nearly took the lead minutes later through their 17-year-old Ghana player Ibrahim Taiko but in the 31st minute Juventus captain Roberto Baggio sealed the German's fate.

From a direct free-kick Baggio's perfectly placed shot gave goalkeeper Stefan Koss no chance.

"With nothing to lose the Germans pushed forward and Lars Ricken headed home from a corner in the second half but the goal was disallowed by Dutch referee Van der Ende who claimed the outswinging ball had crossed the line and come back in to play.

Juventus almost made it 3-1 in the final five minutes when a fierce shot from Paulo Sousa beat Koss but hit the post but by then the match had already been sealed.

The first-leg of the final will be played on May 3 in Parma with Juventus hosting the second-leg on May 17.

Joe Montana announces retirement

NEW YORK (R) — The fiercest of competitors and coolest of customers has called it quits, and fans will never get to see Joe Montana light up another Super Bowl.

But what memories "Joe Cool" leaves behind. "The catch," "The drive," and oh those incredible comebacks.

Two months short of his 39th birthday, after 16 sensational NFL seasons, 318 touchdowns and injuries that would have stopped a lesser man years earlier, Joe Montana decided it's time to pull out the golf clubs."

Like Arnold Palmer, Muhammad Ali and Michael Jordan, Montana is one of those rare sportsmen who came to be considered a legend while still plying his trade.

"Playing with him is like playing with Babe Ruth," former teammate Brent Jones once said, comparing Montana to the greatest icon of American sports.

Such reverence was felt by temma and opponents alike.

After Montana broke his heart in Super Bowl XXIII with the "The Drive," Cincinnati receiver Chris Collinsworth said: "Joe Montana is not human. I don't want to call him a God but he's de-

finitely somewhere in between."

To a fellow Bengal who thought they had the big game won, Collinsworth said: "Have you seen who's quarterbacking the 49ers?"

All

Montana did — just three years after potentially career-ending back surgery in 1986 — was march the 49ers 92 yards in 10 plays, completing seven of eight passes including the winning touchdown with 34 seconds left.

He took San Francisco to four Super Bowls and won them all, without throwing a single interception.

Montana was named Most Valuable Player of the NFL's big show a record three times. His favourite receiver, Jerry Rice, was named MVP of the 1989 Super Bowl. But even Rice acknowledged that his quarterback was MVP of that game too.

In his first year with the Chiefs he came within one victory of another Super Bowl.

Other had greater natural athletic ability, but none could read a defence and pick it apart with the surgical precision of Montana.

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Easter at the Marriott is a special feast. You and your family can enjoy our delightful lunch buffet at Al Mansaf Restaurant, with live entertainment.

Three prizes will be given to the children who find the golden,

silver and chocolate eggs

in the egg hunt.

Al Mansaf Restaurant

Price: 12,500 JD + 10% Government Tax

+ 10% Service Charge.

Children Half Price.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran convicts 3 Americans of spying

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said on Wednesday three Americans have been found guilty of spying for the United States and their case would be reviewed by Iran's supreme court. Iranian Television quoted the head of Iran's supreme court, Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Gilani, as telling reporters in Tehran that the three unnamed Americans had "been found guilty by an Islamic revolution court, and their cases were now under review by the supreme court." Mr. Gilani described the three Americans as "mercenary agents who spied for America and its accomplices during the (1980-88 Iran-Iraq) war." Mr. Gilani did not say when the Americans were arrested or give any information on them. It was the first reported news on the three.

20% of ex-Soviet emigres to Israel not Jewish

TEL AVIV (AFP) — One in five immigrants to Israel from the former Soviet Union is not a Jew, the Jewish Agency announced Wednesday. The agency said 19.8 per cent or 110,283 of the 557,370 immigrants who have flooded in since 1989 were not Jewish. Israel's "law of return" allows any Jew to immigrate and grants immediate citizenship and a range of benefits. It also applies to spouses and third generation descendants of Jewish mothers, which explains the figures for non-Jews. Avraham Burg, chairman of the agency, which oversees immigration, told reporters the policy would not change and Israel would continue to take in non-Jews.

Egypt to hold elections in Halab

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has taken the first step towards holding elections in a border region disputed with Sudan, which is likely to increase tensions between the two neighbours. On Tuesday, Egypt's consultative Shura Council approved a bill creating election districts in Halab, a triangular patch of desert on the Red Sea. The National Assembly, or parliament, is expected to follow suit shortly. The move is in response to Sudan's announcement in February that it would hold elections in Halab. Under an 1899 treaty, the land was incorporated into Egypt, which later gave Sudan administrative powers there. In 1991, Sudan tried to lease Red Sea oil rights off Halab to a Canadian firm, triggering the present dispute which both countries claim the land.

Talibans block fuel supplies into Kabul

KABUL (AP) — The Taliban militia, a leading opposition group in the civil war, has imposed a blockade on fuel coming into the capital in a bid to weaken the nominal government. Gasoline prices have doubled to the equivalent of \$3.50 a gallon since the blockade began Monday, but it is unlikely to undermine President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government. "We have cut supplies of gasoline and diesel, but we are not stopping anything else such as flour," Taliban commander Haji Ubaidullah told the Associated Press in an interview in Maidan Shahr, 30 kilometres southwest of Kabul. "The government is using the fuel to run their tanks and military hardware in their fight against us," Mr. Ubaidullah said in explaining the motive for the blockade. Mr. Rabbani's troops and their allies have driven all their opponents, including the Talibans, out of rocket range of Kabul and the city has been calm for the past month.

Jewish extremists call for murder of "K"

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Hardline Israeli nationalists called Wednesday for the murder of the new head of the internal intelligence agency Shin Beth whom they consider opposed to Jewish settlement on occupied territory. Israeli military radio said it had received a statement from the "David's Shield" group calling for "the execution of the traitor who persecutes settlers." The group, which says it is linked to the outlawed Kach movement, gave the full name of the Shin Beth chief, which is banned by military censorship. He is identified only by the code letter "K." An expert on Jewish extremism, he took charge of Shin Beth in March. A Kach leader went to court to try to have the appointment overturned.

Three sentenced to death in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Three militants were sentenced to death on Wednesday for killing a policeman and wounding two civilians in February 1992 in south Egypt, court sources said. Six other extremists were sentenced to life of hard labour while another was acquitted by the criminal court of Esna, 750 kilometres south of Cairo. The members of the outlawed Samaa Al Islamiyah group were found guilty of murdering Mokhtar Ahmad 40, a member of state security, and injuring two civilians who tried to stop them during the attack in Esna. Badri Makhluf Hussein, who was already in prison, was found innocent of issuing orders from his cell to the others to commit attacks against police. Hussein is serving multiple sentences amounting to 60 years in prison for participation in attacks against tourists in 1992.

EU seeks Iranian pledge on Rushdie

TEHRAN (AFP) — European Union (EU) envoys met a senior Iranian official here on Wednesday and asked Tehran for a pledge not to harm British author Salman Rushdie, diplomatic sources said. The ambassadors of France, Germany and Spain — representing the past, present and future presidents of the EU — presented Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif with a demand not to carry out the religious edict condemning Mr. Rushdie to death, the sources said. Their visit marked a new attempt by the EU to minimise the impact of the fatwa pronounced by former Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on Mr. Rushdie in 1988 following publication of his book, "The Satanic Verses," judged blasphemous to Islam.

Tunisia sets up office in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A Tunisian envoy presented his credentials to Yasser Arafat on Wednesday bringing to three the number of Arab countries with representatives in the Gaza Strip. Mohammad Al Munji Al Ajnaf told Mr. Arafat at his sea-side headquarters: "I will try to shoulder this responsibility until we reach the shores of peace." Tunisia joined Egypt and Morocco from the Arab World while Germany, Denmark, Norway and the Netherlands also have opened offices here and in the West Bank self-rule enclave of Jericho. "Tunisia has everlasting value for us and we will remain together until we pray together in Jerusalem as capital of independent Palestine," Mr. Arafat said.

Adel Imam's play highest earner

CAIRO (AP) — He is Egypt's leading comedian and star box office attraction, and now Adel Imam's latest play "The Leader" has become the highest earner in Egyptian theatre history. The comedy opened in the fall 1983, and after playing for 318 nights, it has made nearly 20 million pounds (\$5.8 million). A quarter of that figure was paid to the government as taxes. Egypt's newspapers published pictures of the Monday night celebration by the cast of "The Leader" after the figures were announced. The play, written by Farouk Sabry, is a political satire set in a fictional Third World dictatorship. The dictator dies and imam, his look-alike, winds up running the country and rejects the old system. As Egypt's leading comedian, Imam's movies are guaranteed box office successes and his plays usually have lengthy runs.



Iraqi trade unionists protest on Wednesday in front of the U.N. office in Baghdad a U.N. resolution to allow limited oil sales (AFP photo)

Iraq protesters reject U.N. plan

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Brandishing anti-U.S. banners, thousands of Iraqi demonstrators crammed Baghdad streets on Wednesday to voice their rejection of a U.N. plan allowing Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil.

About 10,000 people took to the streets in a demonstration reminiscent of anti-U.S. protests in the build-up to the 1991 Gulf war, when a U.S.-led allied force drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait.

"This resolution is American, the Iraqi people do not accept it," read a banner hoisted by a group of Iraqi workers.

It was the largest demonstration so far against the U.N. resolution, already rejected by the Iraqi cabinet since it was passed by the Security Council last Friday.

The U.N. plan would allow Iraq to sell up to \$2 billion of oil over 180 days, renewable for another six months, to raise funds to pay for urgently needed foodstuffs and medicines.

U.N. sanctions applied to

Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait have devastated its economy, but Baghdad says the terms of the resolution infringe on its sovereignty.

Fadil Ghareeb, head of Iraqi trade unions, led the demonstrators.

"As trade unions, we cannot accept this resolution and have written to the government about it," Mr. Ghareeb told Reuters.

"It (resolution) will not operate a single factory, not employ a single worker and not lesson inflation," he said.

"It is like slow death. Therefore we cannot accept it," Mr. Ghareeb said, adding that Iraqi trade unions will confront the plan "with all possible means."

The ruling Baath Party newspaper on Wednesday dismissed the resolution as "mean and vicious" and said Iraq would settle for nothing short of total lifting of the ban on its oil exports.

"Our rejection of this conspiracy, vicious American resolution stems from the fact that the Iraqi people shall not

allow foreigners to make use of its national wealth until doomsday," the paper said in a front-page editorial.

Iraq's cabinet at the weekend flatly spurned the U.N. plan and Baghdad newspapers carried an address by President Saddam Hussein in which he said Iraq's enemies were "astonished with the Iraqi people's attitude rejecting the American resolution."

The Baath Party paper said the only way out of the impasse was for the U.N. to acknowledge that Iraq has complied with Gulf war ceasefire terms requiring it to dismantle its weapons systems and to lift sanctions entirely.

Babel Newspaper said the resolution was a conspiracy which Iraq flatly rejects. Iraq preferred further "tightening of belts" to accepting such a resolution, it said.

Iraqi parliamentary committees are discussing the resolution pending a formal session Iraqi legislators are to hold soon.

In Abu Dhabi, Organisation of Palestine Exporting Countries Secretary-General Rilwan Lukman said Iraq's return to the oil market if U.N. sanctions are eased would not weaken prices.

Mr. Lukman, on his arrival in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of a Gulf tour, said, however, that OPEC oil ministers would hold emergency talks if the United Nations allowed Iraq back to the market.

"I do not know what the result will be but I think that Iraq's resumption of oil exports according to OPEC rules till not affect oil prices," Mr. Lukman told reporters.

"After the sanctions are lifted, OPEC will hold an emergency meeting to discuss Iraq's comeback to the market."

"We hope such a return will be compatible with the organisation's rules and policies on production quotas assigned to each member state so the market will not be destabilised," he said.

referring to \$17 billion Iran says Washington froze after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Mr. Rafsanjani also offered to mediate in a dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, but said the United States must not be allowed to get involved.

The Iranian leader, speaking warmly of India's secular tradition, said the issue of Kashmir and a Hindu-Muslim dispute over the demolition of a mosque should not be used for propaganda against New Delhi.

"I am not satisfied nor happy with the situation in Kashmir," Mr. Rafsanjani told a news conference.

"We believe that they should first prove they do not have any misintentions in their behaviour so that we could have further consideration for our future reference."

Mr. Rafsanjani said: "We feel one such indication of goodwill from the United States could be the release of our frozen assets of our country. That would be a good sign."

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told Reuters that Mr. Rafsanjani was

Hamas rejects Arafat order to disarm

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — The militant Hamas group, which has tried to halt Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking with a series of suicide bombings, said Wednesday they would not surrender weapons or stop attacks against Israel.

Izzedine Al Qassam, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued the leaflet after reports that a deal was being worked out between Hamas and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to end the attacks.

Officials in Mr. Arafat's self-rule government met several times over the past few days with Hamas leaders to head off a confrontation and work out an understanding.

Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Irdeineh said Wednesday that some progress was being made.

"There are positive signs, and they are talking in a different language these days," Mr. Irdeineh said. "We are encouraging them, and we are waiting for them to join us and to respect the signature of the PLO (on the peace accord)."

Mr. Abu Irdeineh said that as a first step, Mr. Arafat wanted a pledge from Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad that they do not carry out attacks against Israel's PLO-ruled territory.

However, the Izzedine Al Qassam leaflet ruled out compromise.

"Our decision is to reject the disarming of our fighters," said the leaflet circulated in Gaza.

"The holy war will continue in every part of our occupied Palestinian land where (Israeli) soldiers and settlers are present, whether in Gaza, the West Bank or in the occupied lands of 1948," the statement said.

Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas political leader, said the two sides were not close to an agreement.

"The Palestinian Authority is trying to give the impression that a deal is being made to show the Israelis that they have done something," Dr. Zahar told the Associated Press.

Dr. Zahar said Egypt was trying to mediate between the militants and Arafat. He said he and other Hamas leaders met Tuesday night with the Egyptian representative to Gaza, Mohammad Karim.

Mr. Arafat last week set a May 11 deadline for militant groups to surrender their weapons.

The ultimatum was part of a crackdown carried out after back-to-back suicide bombings on April 9. Seven Israelis and an American were killed in the explosions near two Jewish settlements in Gaza.

The attacks resulted in fresh Israeli and U.S. pressure on Mr. Arafat to rein in the militants. Israeli has warned it would not pull troops out of West Bank towns, as stipulated in the peace accord, unless Mr. Arafat did a better job foiling attacks on Israelis.

COLUMN 8

Japan's Princess Sayako turns 26

TOKYO (AP) — Princess Sayako, the only daughter of Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, turned 26 Tuesday. And, though rumours may abound, she says she is in no hurry to get married. Princess Sayako, the youngest of the imperial couple's three children, and the only one still single. Over the past few years, rumours have had her on the verge of marrying several times. "I would prefer to take it at my own pace," she said in a written response to questions posed by the media. Unlike her brothers — imperial heir Naruhito and Prince Akishino, who is second in line to the throne — Princess Sayako cannot assume the throne. If she marries, she also will lose her status as an imperial princess, and most relinquish her annual stipend and residence with her parents at the imperial palace.

Winnie Mandela enters hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Winnie Mandela was admitted to a private clinic here suffering from stress Tuesday, a day after resigning her South African government post, public SABC television said. The Linkfield Park Clinic confirmed Mrs. Mandela had been admitted but refused to comment on her condition, saying it had to protect the privacy of its patients. Friends and family members of the estranged wife of President Nelson Mandela pleaded with journalists waiting at the hospital to leave her alone as she needed rest. The SABC report said tests were being conducted on Mrs. Mandela.

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CIVITAVECCHIA, Italy (R) — Judicial authorities said they had lifted a "custody order" on a statue of the Madonna whose reported tears of blood have caused thousands of Italy's faithful to flock to this port city. Magistrate Antonio Albano lifted an injunction ordering the local bishop, Girolamo Grillo, to keep the statue locked in a sealed closet in his home pending the results of an investigation into whether the bleeding was a hoax. Mr. Albano did not say why he had revoked the order. Earlier he had said allowing the statue to remain in the subject of veneration while the scientific verdict was still pending risked violating laws forbidding "abuse of public sensibility."

Since the 40-cm (15-inch) high statue of the Virgin Mary first reportedly wept tears of blood in February, thousands of people have visited Civitavecchia hoping to witness a miracle. Initial tests have shown that the red liquid on the face of the statue, which was purchased at the religious shrine of Medjugorje in Bosnia, was male blood. But so far there has been no conclusive evidence of how it got there.

N. Zealand police hunt man who threw baby from car

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Police searched Wednesday for a man alleged to have thrown his baby daughter from a moving car.

Police quoted witnesses as saying the five-month-old girl was thrown from the car Wednesday afternoon, near the North Island town of Wairoa. The child died on impact. The man had no idea of a motive for the incident. "When we apprehend the guy we're looking for, we'll ask him," detective Sergeant Rob Palmer said.

Five people, including the baby's mother and two other infants, were in the car when the infant was thrown out.

LAWRENCE, Kansas — The Lawrence Police Department has issued a statement regarding the recent shooting of a police officer in Lawrence. The statement says that the officer was shot while on duty and is currently receiving medical attention. The police department is investigating the incident and has not yet released any details.

NEW YORK (R) — The New York City Police Department has issued a statement regarding the recent shooting of a police officer in New York City. The statement says that the officer was shot while on duty and is currently receiving medical attention. The police department is investigating the incident and has not yet released any details.

PHILADELPHIA (R) — The Philadelphia Police Department has issued a statement regarding the recent shooting of a police officer in Philadelphia. The statement says that the officer was shot while on duty and is currently receiving medical attention. The police department is investigating the incident and has not yet released any details.

DETROIT (R) — The Detroit Police Department has issued a statement regarding the recent shooting of a police officer in Detroit. The statement says that the officer was shot while on duty and is currently receiving medical attention. The police department is investigating the incident and has not yet released any details.

ATLANTA (R) — The Atlanta Police Department has issued a statement regarding the recent shooting of a police officer in Atlanta. The statement says that the officer was shot while on duty and is currently receiving medical attention. The police department is investigating the incident and has not yet released any details.

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Los Angeles Police Department has issued a statement regarding the recent shooting of a police officer in Los Angeles. The statement says that the officer was shot while on duty and is currently receiving medical attention. The police department is investigating the incident and has not yet released any details.

CHICAGO (R) — The Chicago Police Department has issued a statement regarding the recent shooting of a police officer in Chicago. The statement says that the officer was shot while on duty and is currently receiving medical attention. The police department is investigating the incident and has not yet released any details.

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — The Minneapolis Police Department has issued a statement regarding the recent shooting of a police officer in Minneapolis. The statement says that the officer was shot while on duty and is currently receiving medical attention. The police department is investigating the incident and has not yet released any details.

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